STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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STUMPED

Anger as trees chopped down in park

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NEW BOSS

Chief executive will face hard decisions

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TWO SCHOOLS TO BE REBUILT

TWO primary schools are to be rebuilt thanks to a Government grant.

Visiting the area, schools minister Nick Boles revealed that Ridgewood High School in Wollaston and Huntingtree Primary School in Halesowen are to benefit from the £6 billion revamp scheme.

Mr Boles confirmed that around £2bn will be invested in rebuilding or refurbishing buildings at 277 schools across England, under the second phase of the scheme.

Around 260 schools are already being refurbished under the first phase of the programme, including 22 across the West Midlands, bringing the total number of schools to receive a revamp to 537 and 49 across the region.

This funding is on top of the £18bn already invested in school buildings since 2010.

Mr Boles went to Huntingtree this week with Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

Others getting funding include Blue Coat Academy in Walsall, Abbey Infant School in Smethwick, Yew Tree Primary School, Great Barr School in Birmingham, and several schools in Staffordshire

Giveaway

Labour accused the Conservatives of using the announcement as a pre-election giveaway to boost votes.

Huntingtree Primary School wwas built in the 1950s and currently has 450 pupils. While visiting the school, Mr Boles said: "The key thing is unlike any previous Government we have gone through the process of assessing every single school in the country.

"We wrote to every school and as a result of that we could spend money on

By Daniel Wainwright

school buildings urgently in need of replacement.

"This building is shockingly bad and a replacement is overdue. It is clearly not fit for purpose.

"Each school used to have its own architect but now there is a range of designs for them to pick from. It means more new buildings for the money.

"What people like the Government to do is put in enough money so there are good schools for their children. But it's taxpayers' money, so it has to be spent as wisely as possible.

"There was huge waste under the previous Priority Schools Building Programme which we cancelled. There were huge gleaming palaces going up when there were buildings like this, which has been here since the early 50s, and had nothing done to it."

Huntingtree headteacher Mrs Stevie Parkes said: "I am absolutely thrilled that we are going to have a building fit for the 21st century."

James Morris MP, said: "This school has obviously got some quite dilapidated buildings and this decision is great for the pupils of Huntingtree. The redevelopment of the school will help improve education for all of them."

Pupil wins MP over with new town flag

Heritage and history on the flag by pupil Jack Thomas with Stourbridge MP Margot James

IT'S a brand new flag for Stourbridge and now its young designer is in the running for a national design competition.

Nine-year-old Jack Thomas designed the flag for Stourbridge, which shows a glass blower surrounded by a ring of railway tracks.

He met town MP Margot James when she popped into Greenfield Primary School in Hill Street.

"It is a fantastic flag," Ms James said. "It celebrates the town's heritage, with glass-blowing and railway both represented in a very clean, well-designed way. I think it was wonderful."

Greenfield was selected as the constituency's representative and each pupil designed a flag to present to Ms James, with Jack's being the winning entry.

One flag will be selected from each county in the UK to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta, with Jack's now in the running to be selected as the national winner to be flown in Parliament Square in Westminster. It will also be displayed in an online gallery.

The MP also got grilled in a mock commons debate by the pupils. Despite their young age, the pupils fielded a range of hard hitting questions, including questions on childhood obesity, immigration and the role of the MP.

One pupil even asked if she had ever thought about switching parties.

Visitors flock to borough's attractions

VISITOR numbers at Dudley's three biggest tourist attractions are up by almost a quarter, as work continues on the £10.1 million regeneration of Castle Hill.

That is aimed at attracting thousands more people to major attractions Dudley Zoo, Dudley Canal Trust and the Black Country Living Museum.

Dudley's tourism chiefs welcomed the news as a boost for the whole of the Black Country.

The biggest increase was at Dudley Zoo, where 290,000 people passed through the gates in 2014. This was up by 25 per cent on 2013's figures.

Investment

At Dudley Canal Trust, there was a 23 per cent rise for the last quarter of 2014 compared with the same period in 2013. Visitor numbers for the year were up by 10 per cent.

At the Black Country Living Museum there were 271,467 people visiting the attraction in 2014, 31,000 more than in 2013. This is a rise of around 13 per cent.

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "These latest figures go to show what impact the multi-million pound investment in the area is having on three world-class visitor attractions."

Adventures to cost more

PARENTS in Dudley will have to pay more money to send their children to an outdoor activities centre under council plans to meet rising food and fuel bills.

It is the fourth increase in four years for visitors to Astley Burf Outdoor Adventure Centre in Worcestershire.

If the plans are approved, fees for one week's stay at the centre near Stourport will rise from £105 to £107, a four day visit will go up from £85 to £87 and a weekend trip will increase by £1 to £55.

Traders pay price for EDL protest

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds was lost in trade as the English Defence League descended on Dudley town centre.

Police and council chiefs were also left counting the cost of Saturday's protest with around £25,000 spent on barriers and cleaning up.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "Roads were closed, shops had to shut and staff lost a day's pay. I don't think that's right, especially when times are so tough."

The town centre was deserted as more than 600 EDL members came from across the country. The potential threat — based on the trouble that broke out at a similar demo in the town in 2010 — forced West Midlands Police to draft in hundreds of extra officers from as far away as Wales.

Protesters gathered outside the council house on Priory Road after marching from King Street, where a 45-minute demonstration was held. The EDL were kept apart from around 50 members of Unite Against Fascism holding a counter-protest in Castle Street.

Chief Superintendent Chris Johnson confirmed that 29 demonstrators had been arrested for breaching the peace. Most were released without charge.

● Picture — page 3

Hero's statue back on show

THE statue of Dudley's sporting hero Duncan Edwards has been returned to the town's market place.

The statue was in storage during the £6.7 million redevelopment of the market and has been located in New Street. The England and Manchester United player from the Priory Estate died aged 21, as a result of injuries in the Munich air disaster in February 1958, which claimed the lives of seven of his team mates. The statue will be re-dedicated.

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Police keeping pressure on burglars

BURGLARY rates across the West Midlands have fallen to an all-time low, police say — although the number of break-ins across Dudley has increased.

Figures released by West Midlands Police show burglaries have decreased in Sandwell and Walsall by close to 15 per cent since last April compared to the same period 12 months ago.

In Wolverhampton there has been an increase of 1.2 per cent, while Dudley break-ins have risen by more than 15 per cent with 773 burglaries for the 2014/2015 period compared to 668 the previous year.

The force is, however, hailing the figures a success with an overall decrease of 10 per cent throughout the region – a total of 942 fewer break-ins – which bosses say is down to officers tightening their grip on known offenders and protecting houses in crime 'hot spots'.

Halved

It continues a downward trend over the past decade that has seen burglary rates more than halved, from 26,933 in 2002/2003 to 12,704 in 2013/2014. Chief Inspector Alan Simmonds oversees Operation Illuminate, a project designed to tackle burglary in 'hot-spot' areas. He said: "We're keeping up pressure on thieves with a history of striking during dark winter evenings."

Stourbridge ward Conservative councillor Mike Wood, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Dudley South, said: "People must be able to feel safe and secure in their own homes."

Hospital agency staff cost £600k in a month

MORE than £600,000 was spent on agency staff at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital in just one month, new figures reveal.

The bill for December came as the number of patients attending A&E during the month soared to 8,762, compared with 7,944 in the previous year.

Chief executive Paula Clark said the hospital was working to reduce the number of agency workers used to cover staff shortages. She added that it had spent, on average, around £61,000 less each month on agency staff than in the previous financial year.

The total spent during December was £603,240, a Freedom of Information request revealed. Of this £265,704 was spent on medical staff and £264,206 on nursing staff. While £39,133 was spent on other clinical workers and £34,197 on non-clinical staff.

Skilled

Ms Clark said: "To make sure patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled staff at all times, we sometimes use agency staff to cover staff shortages.

"These shortages can come about due to unplanned sickness and short-term vacancies, or the need to open extra beds to cope with peaks in demand.

"Despite an increased number of A&E attendances in December 2014 compared to 2013, we were still able to reduce the amount we spent on agency staffing."

The agency staff bill has come under fire from former hospital governor Bill Etheridge, a UKIP Dudley councillor and Euro MP, who said employing agency doctors and nurses was an ineffective use of resources.

"The people in charge are on a large amount of money. It would be nice to think they had the skills as would lead to not having to call in the cavalry," he said

Pair in court after incident on forecourt

A MAN and a woman have appeared in court charged with trying to steal a car from a garage forecourt in Stourbridge.

A salesman was dragged along as he tried to stop a Ford Focus being taken last Thursday at Stourbridge Motor Company.

Reuben Hylton, aged 24 of Princip Street, Birmingham, was charged with attempted theft and appeared before Birmingham Magistrates Court on Saturday. He was also charged with 18 other offences dating back to December 8. These are six counts of stealing motor vehicles from forecourts, eight counts of driving while disqualified, two of making off without paying for petrol, one of assault and another charge of breaching an anti-social behaviour order.

Hylton was arrested alongside a 26-year-old Meryl DaCosta, of Boscombe Road, Tyseley. She was charged in connection with the Stourbridge Motor Company offence and a separate crime of robbery in Walsall on January 30.

Hylton was remanded in custody and is due before Birmingham Crown Court on March 20. DaCosta was bailed with strict conditions.

Miracle boy's milestone

Harrison Jordan celebrates his first birthday with father Tim and mother Melanie

TINY battler Harrison Jordan has defied the odds to celebrate his first birthday after being born 11 weeks premature.

He weighed just one-and-half pounds when he was born on February 3 last year and was not expected to survive. But one year on, he continues to get stronger, crawling around the family home in Ketley Road, Kingswinford, and pulling himself up to his feet. He was all smiles as he received cards and presents from adoring parents Melanie, aged 40, and Tim 45.

Mr Jordan said: "Harrison's doing really well. We could not be happier with the progress he has made. His consultant is also over the moon with how he is developing. It seems whatever obstacle is put in his way he battles through it."

The worst day had been February 11 last year when Harrison had been blessed because he was not expected to survive the night. Mr Jordan added: "It is amazing to see how he has come on in just a year. We call him our little fighter."

54 Ring and Ride jobs go in cutbacks

RING-AND-RIDE services across the West Midlands are shedding 54 jobs as budget cuts of £700,000 start to take effect.

West Midlands Special Needs Transport runs the Ring-and-Ride service for elderly and disabled people who cannot use public transport. The jobs will go at the end of March.

Union bosses are in discussions with staff to help them try to find new jobs. In December it was revealed 92 driver and scheduler jobs were at risk as the company tried to cope with a £700,000 cut in its budget.

The charity operates the Ring-and-Ride service across Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull. Around 22,000 people use the service, which offers door-to-door transport for people unable to use buses, trams and trains.

Unite union regional officer Caren Evans said it had been confirmed that 54 people had been made redundant, with 38 workers taking part-time roles or transferring to other roles.Chief executive of West Midlands Special Needs Transport, David Bermingham said those being made redundant

Variety show to aid hospice

THE Bostin Black Country Variety Show is on February 27 at Dudley's Station Hotel to raise money for Compton Hospice.

It will be headlined by folk band The Empty Can, who created the local anthem I Vow To Thee Black Country, and features comedian Wayne Beese, Open Mic UK 2014 finalists Brett Huckfield and Marie Timmins alongside comedy singer Bob Gessey and Black Country poet Steve Bartley, from 6.30pm.

Tickets cost £12, from www.compton-hospice.org.uk or call 01902 774548.

Bumble bird box

A NATURE reserve in Dudley hosts a bird boxing making session during the half term holiday. Bumble Hole, off Windmill End, is holding the event on February 18 between 10.30am and 1.30pm. Youngsters must be accompanied by an adult. Call (01384) 814100 to book.

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Training firm to appeal after damning report

TEACHING at a firm running building apprenticeships in the Black Country and Staffordshire has been branded poor.

Students were left with little prospect of finding a job, according to a damning report. Targeted Training Projects Ltd has 160 students at sites in Kingswinford and Cannock.

Ofsted says the quality of teaching and learning is 'consistently poor' and tutors do not pay enough attention to the apprentices. The firm, which has headquarters in Brierley Hill, was given the lowest possible rating by the inspectors. It is supposed to set students up for careers in the building industry but inspectors found many struggling to get placements during their course.

Failures

The report lists a catalogue of failures and says major improvements are needed at Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, and at Hemlock Way, Cannock.

Inspector Russell Henry said the proportion of apprentices who successfully complete their course 'is very low' as they spend too little time in actual employment.

"This means that they are unable to develop and consolidate their skills in real-work situations and that opportunities to assess their competence are insufficient."

He found that most apprentices have 'poor attitudes towards learning'. The report also states: "Staff do not set high standards or expectations for their apprentices. The quality of teaching and training is poor and the planning of learning is inadequate. As a result, the majority of apprentices are unsuccessful in attaining their learning goals."

There were problems with safety in workshops with some apprentices not being supervised using power saws.

General manager Jodie Hawkins said: "We have appealed against the report and don't feel we are in a position to comment while the appeal is in place. I think the fact we are appealing shows we are not happy."

Woman is pushed down set of stairs

A 50-year-old pushed his partner down the stairs, breaking her wrist, after they returned home from a pub, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Simon Hardwick hurled various household items at the victim as she lay in pain on the floor, causing severe bruising. She plunged down the stairs after he pulled her round the house by her arms and clothing, said Miss Sarah Allen, prosecuting.

The court was told the woman later told police she still loved the man who had been her partner for seven years.

Miss Satvir Aujla, defending, said Hardwick from Albert Road, Brierley Hill, was 'very remorseful'.

The defendant, who had received a caution for battering the victim in 2010, pleaded guilty to assaulting her causing actual bodily harm on November 22 last year. He was given an eight month prison sentence suspended under supervision for two years on condition he attends a course on domestic abuse.

Recorder Marcus Tregilgas-Davey told him: "This was a sustained piece of aggression against somebody who was entitled to feel safe in her own home."

Offices turn into homes

FORMER council offices in Dudley will be going under the hammer.

The properties in Ednam Road are among 12 sites, which have been deemed surplus to requirements by Dudley Council. The two pairs of semi-detached offices have planning permission to be converted into homes. Other buildings being sold by the council include properties in St James's Road and Priory Court.

In total it is hoped 12 sites will be used to create 90 homes and net the authority £467,000 per year savings.

Sweeper collision

AN elderly man was pulled from a car after it collided with a roadsweeper.

An ambulance crew arrived at the scene around 3.20pm on February 4 after the collision on Ketley Road, Kingswinford. The man was taken to Russells Hall hospital suffering chest pains.

Children's speech centres face cost-cutting shake up

TWO centres supporting children with speech and language difficulties in Dudley will close, under a planned shake up of services.

Parents say they fear their children could be placed into mainstream schools where they 'would not be able to cope'.

From September, Dudley Council is proposing to deliver the specialist service at just one site, Hob Green Primary School in Stourbridge. This would mean centres at St Margaret's at Hasbury Church of England Primary School in Halesowen and Quarry Bank Primary School will close. The changes will see the number of places available drop by eight.

Eight of the 16 children who attend the full-time service at St Margaret's and Quarry Bank will be taken into Hob Green's centre.

By Richard Guttridge

Fury

But those not transferred will be placed into either mainstream or special schools, sparking fury among some parents who insist mainstream schools are not a suitable setting.

There is also anger that parents have been informed of the proposals only a few months before they are due to be introduced.

The move will save Dudley Council £55,000 but bosses insisted it would be reinvested on 'service improvements'.

Emma Page's five-year-old son Charlie currently attends the centre at St Margaret's. She said she was 'outraged and upset'.

"Charlie wouldn't be able to cope and I don't know how they would cope having a child like Charlie in a mainstream school. Other children might bully him" she said. " I fear he will end up sitting in the corner and just go backwards."

Mrs Page, aged 35, of Lutley Lane, Halesowen, criticised the way parents had been informed. She said: "It's short notice and he will also have to be assessed which takes time."

Mandy Spencer, 33, from Brierley Hill is preparing for her six-year-old son Brandon to move to a mainstream school. She said: "These are children who have got a specific need and the money should be there for them. They should be a priority."

Tim Crumpton, Dudley Council's children's chief, said the changes would improve the service.

Concert and masterclass

AN acclaimed concert pianist is going back to school for an annual recital and musical masterclass.

Margaret Fingerhut will be joined by tenor Anthony Flaum for a two day visit to Old Swinford Hospital School. They will perform a concert open to the public in the great hall at the school, off Heath Lane, on February 26 at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced £8 for adults and £6 concessions on the door.

Face of hate — one of the EDL protesters in Dudley as police kept demos apart

Protest empties town of shoppers

MANY pubs and shops already struggling to make ends meet were forced to shut on Saturday, costing them thousands in lost trade, when the English Defence League returned to Dudley.

Following violence in 2010, hoardings and metal grills were erected to protect businesses.

There were 29 arrests as around 600 EDL supporters and members of an anti-fascist protest took to the streets.

EDL protesters, many hiding their faces behind masks or scarves, arrived under the banner of fighting plans for a new mosque to be built on land off Hall Street, although national issues dominated their vocal protests.

Steel anti-riot fencing was erected across the historic market place but market traders stayed away to be replaced by row upon row of police officers. A handful of shoppers decided on a trip into town early in the day but quickly hurried away.

Police appeared to outnumber shoppers ten to one as the streets, normally lively with the cries of market traders, were eerily quiet — until the chants of protesters began.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brewery considers options for Gigmill

A BREWERY has voiced its disappointment after plan to turn a Stourbridge pub into a shop was refused by councillors.

The Gigmill, in South Road, Norton, had looked set to become the latest pub to transformed into a store after the firm applied for permission to have it converted.

But the plan was blocked by councillors over road safety fears.

A Marston's spokesman said: "We are disappointed with the decision and are currently evaluating our options."

War Horse and tunes at museum

TUNES from the First World War will be performed during free shows at Dudley Museum.

CBSO quartet The Stringcredibles will be performing 'Tunes from the Trenches', which is funded by Arts Council England, on February 28 at 10.30am and 12.30pm. Families are encouraged to join in the 50 minute show. The performance includes an excerpt from Michael Morpurgo's novel War Horse. For more details call on (01384) 815571.

Firm expands by moving to new HQ

A FIBREGLASS manufacturing firm has moved from Stourbridge to new home in Kidderminster after a £1.2 million investment in the former Sealine factory.

The move is part of Quantum Mouldings drive to double its workforce to 50 and increase its turnover to £5 million a year.

It has already recruited 10 new staff over the last year.

Students help heroes in match

PUBLIC services students at Halesowen College have raised £160 for Help For Heroes after taking part in a football tournament.

The group finished the day with an 11-a-side match against sports students. Organiser and lecturer Huw Pritchard said: "Staff and students are looking forward to more charity events."

Homes for pub site

FOURTEEN homes could be built on the site of a former pub in Kingswinford. The Summerhouse, The Portway, would be demolished to make way for the development. Dudley Council will decide.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

GO Set a Watchman is the title of Harper Lee's forthcoming novel. Curious. I assumed the sequel to To Kill a Mockingbird would be To Cook a Mockingbird.

ANYONE else surprised at the reports describing the bus-v-tree incident in London as a "freak accident?" If the bus is too high and the tree branch is too low, that's not freakery. It's maths.

WAY back in ye olden days we kids were expected to know our times tables by the time we left infant school at seven. We learned them by reciting them. The latest plan, to teach kids their times tables by the age of 11, was described this week as "ambitious." And while we're on the subject. In primary school, we 1950s kids understood verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. We did long division and multiplication. We did nature study and art, history, geography and PE. We sang sea shanties around the piano and did country dancing to the wireless. We could recite the Magnificat and the Beatitudes. And we were never, ever given any homework.

A POLICE campaign against thefts from vans in the West Midlands shows thieves breaking open a van's rear door in just six seconds and stealing valuable tools. Of course, drivers should leave nothing inside worth nicking. But surely the van makers must share the blame. Modern car-door locks make it virtually impossible to drive away a vehicle without the key. So why can the rear doors on a van be breached in six seconds?

BEST moment by far in Inside the Commons (BBC2) came when the new Rotherham MP Sarah Champion, flushed with success after getting a clause inserted in the law on child abuse, was talking excitedly to the camera.

Suddenly David Cameron passed across the screen behind her and, barely stopping, said: "Well spoken. That was very good." So this is our Sarah, the woman of the people, the no-nonsense, ecky-thump socialist from Oop North. She's unexpectedly face-to-face with the uber-toff Tory from Downing Street, the heir to Thatcher, and he's saying sweet things to her. So how did she react? May a hint of shock and irritation. But also a girlish fluster, like a lass unexpectedly kissed by someone she secretly fancied. It was a reminder that the Palace of Westminster is a seductive club which draws in even those MPs who are determined to be outsiders. A reminder, too, that MPs tend to be closer to each other than they are to us, the people.

THINGS to do on a snowy day. I didn't know until this week that the DVLA website offers a free service to find out the tax status of any motor vehicle. A reader tells me he belongs to a motor club which used the website to check the status of 300 entrants to a rally. Although all t displayed tax discs 50 of them, according to the DVLA, were untaxed or incorrectly registered.

A REPORT in Wales proposes "breaking up the old-boy network" by setting limits on how long local councillors can serve. This is revolutionary stuff. At present, councillors can be in power from puberty to the grave, so long as they represent one of those seats where a three-toed sloth would get elected if it wore the right-coloured rosette. Council chambers are full of the municipal equivalent of bed-blockers who soldier on long after they have served their purpose, dunking their free biscuits in their free tea. So what maximum length of term does the Welsh report suggest? Five years? Ten years, perhaps? Nope. The proposed limit is 25 years. Small revolution in Wales; not many affected. Back to your biscuits, grandad.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Tributes paid to former club stalwart

A FOOTBALL club in the Black Country has paid tribute to a former director who has died aged 57.

Fans and staff are mourning Phil Lloyd who worked as both Halesowen Town Football Club's groundsman and club steward before taking on the role of director.

Mr Lloyd, from Lyde Green, Cradley, who joined the club's committee in 1980, died at Russells Hall Hospital last week. The club's former chairman, Ron Moseley, said: "During my time as chairman at the club Philip was an important part of the 12 person board.

Depend

"Cast your eyes around the Grove and it will be difficult to find any project that he was not involved in.

"Phil was one of those people you could depend upon, when the going was tough he was always at your side, totally committed to the club's ongoing success."

Mr Lloyd, who became a director in the early 90s, was heavily involved with the club until around 2004, when he retired from his role.

Outside of football, Mr Lloyd worked at Dudley Council and as a contractor at schools.

Mr Lloyd also helped the supporters' club bounce back after a devastating fire in 1996 caused an estimated £150,000 of damage.

Football clubs around the region sent the club messages of support.

Stourbridge FC tweeted: "Condolences from all at Stourbridge. NL football can't survive without the unsung few like Phil. They're hard to replace."

Plenty to do during the half-term holiday

LOTS of activities will be held at museums across Dudley borough during the February half term holiday next week — and many of them will be free.

Youngsters can enjoy special events, summer schools and family fun days with the Juniors at Museums (JAM) club this February half-term.

Activities are on offer at all three Dudley Council museum sites — Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford and Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone — from craft activities to family fun days.

Free family trails, where children hunt for clues around the venue, will be available every day from this Saturday to Sunday, February 22, throughout the holidays (except Broadfield House on Mondays and Dudley Museum on Sundays). The trails are inspired by the BBC 'Take Ten' project.

There's a free drop-in Sticky Saturday session this Saturday, February 14, at Dudley Museum in the town centre with the chance to have a go at a craft and get messy and sticky. Sticky Saturday runs 1.30 to 3.30pm.

Also at Dudley Museum in Priory Street is a drop-in pancake themed crafts day on Tuesday, from 10.30 to 3.30. Families can take part in a range of craft activities for £2.30 per child. There is no need to book.

By Simon Stone

Broadfield House Glass Museum has a fused glass session on Thursday, February 19, with sessions at 12.30, 1.30 and 2.30. They cost £4 and must be booked in advance.

Broadfield is also running its free 'mad maths and marbles' drop-in session on February 22 from 1.30 to 3.30. Suitable for ages three and up, the fun sessions encourage young children and families to work together on a marble run.

Over at the Red House Glass Cone, on Monday youngsters aged eight and over can enrol in a day-long holiday school from 9.30 to 3.30 and take part in a range of crafts, under the safe guidance of museum education staff. Places cost £22.50 and must be booked.

The cone is also hosting a free Sticky Saturdays drop-in craft session on February 21 from 1 to 3pm.

For more information visit www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums

Pharmacy views sought

RESIDENTS still have time to submit their views on the provision of pharmacy services in Dudley borough.

Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board is working on its Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and members are looking for comments from the community.

The assessment sets out available pharmacy services, identifies gaps in provision and makes recommendations for future developments.

Consultation is open until February 17 for residents to have their say.

The survey is available on-line at www.dudley.gov.uk

Book to remember Tommy

Sisters Angela Daniels and Jill Hughes with a portrait of comedian Tommy Mundon

TWO of Black Country comedian Tommy Mundon's fans are planning a book that will also tell his life story from his humble beginnings in Halesowen.

Tommy died last year aged 80 following a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Retired teacher Angela Daniels, of Halesowen, and her sister Jill Hughes performed with Tommy in the 1970s in musical group Family Affair.

Mrs Daniels said: "We knew Tommy in two different ways, he was a family friend and our parents are actually godparents to his children, but we also performed with him.

"We went to his funeral and whilst we were there we realised just how many people had stories about what a great man he was, everybody had their anecdotes."

Tommy's widow Val has given her blessing. Mrs Daniels said anybody wishing to contribute to the book, to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice, can email ange laandjill@gmail.com or call 0121 5503221.

Check on register to vote, says chief

RESIDENTS are being urged to register to vote so they can have their say in the upcoming General Election. The Parliamentary and local elections take place on Thursday, May 7.

Like all authorities across the country, Dudley Council recently introduced the new individual registration system, requiring each individual in a household to be responsible for registering themselves, which they can also do online.

The council is urging people to make sure they are registered to vote and their information is correct.

Phone

Sarah Norman, council chief executive and electoral registration and returning officer for the borough, said: "Making sure you have your say in the elections is very important but the only way to do that is ensuring you're registered to vote.

"It's never been easier to register and can be done online or over the phone."

Registration can be done online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, residents will need to have their national insurance number to hand, or alternatively, people can call Dudley Council's elections office on (01384) 814740.

Arrests after burglaries

THREE men have been arrested following a spate of distraction burglaries targeting pensioners across the Black Country.

Officers from the Central Motorway Police Group stopped a car on Hagley Road on February 3.

Two men in the car, aged 18 and 20, were arrested on suspicion of burglary A 52-year-old man was also arrested on suspicion of burglary following the search of an address.

Superintendent Andy Parsons, of Dudley Police, urged residents to look out for their elderly neighbours.

Vouchers back

A SCHEME that has seen almost £1 million of sports gear awarded to schools and children's clubs in Dudley has been rolled out for a tenth time. Active Kids backed by Sainsbury's is at the Amblecote and Merry Hill stores. Customers can earn vouchers until May 5.

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Profits up for the top 200 companies

THE 200 biggest companies in the West Midlands have continued their post-recession revival, scoring a hat-trick of increasing revenues, profits and international sales, says a new report.

The report from accountants BDO saw net profits increase by 52 per cent to £7.6 billion, compared to £5bn the previous year.

Group revenues grew by 13 per cent to £124bn.

International sales also flourished, more than doubling from £14.4bn to £31.4bn in just two years, with overseas expansion being described as 'the guiding principle' for growth.

There are 34 Black Country businesses in the top 200, with a combined turnover of £12.5bn, including AF Blakemore & Son, Poundland and Assa Abloy in Willenhall, Barhale and Castings in Walsall, East End Foods in West Bromwich, Sandvik and Eriks in Halesowen, Geopost in Smethwick, Mueller Europe in Bilston, Brindley Garages and Tangent Trading in Dudley.

Manufacturing is the biggest sector in the West Midlands, accounting for 70 of the 200 largest companies, while Birmingham remains at the top place with 59.

Get healthy via the net

A WEBSITE has been launched encouraging people to eat well and get fit.

The Dudley Council-run website — www.lets-get.com — has information about activity and nutrition, and gives each visitor the opportunity to create their own healthy living plan.

The site features healthy recipes and details of local restaurants serving healthier options.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "The Let's Get campaign encourages everyone to eat well and be more active."

Motorcylist hurt

A ROAD was closed when a motorcyclist was involved in a collision with a car.

The incident happened at around 5.10pm last Thursday on Peartree Lane in Netherton.

The motorcyclist suffered a leg injury and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

MP takes police station protest to the top

Counter cut — Dudley Police Station

A 2,000 signature petition against the closure of the public counter at Dudley Police Station has been handed in to Home Office ministers.

It was launched by Dudley North MP Ian Austin after it was announced in November that Dudley Police Station would close to the public.

Mr Austin, who has also secured a meeting with Policing Minister Mike Penning, has raised concerns about the move and says there is 'huge opposition' in the town to the plans.

The public counter at Dudley is one of three in the borough and one of 27 across the West Midlands which will close under the plans by West Midlands Police aimed at saving £3 million. The front counters at stations in Halesowen and Stourbridge will also shut.

Unacceptable

Mr Austin said: "There's huge opposition to these plans in Dudley so I'm pleased that the Policing Minister is meeting me to discuss their concerns.

"It is completely unacceptable that Dudley could become the largest town in the country without a police station open to the public. Thousands of local people are backing my campaign because they know these cuts will mean fewer police on the streets, fewer offenders brought before court and fewer criminals put in jail."

Dudley Police Station is currently open throughout the week from 10am to 6pm.

West Midlands Police says the proposals to shut front counters follow an independent review, which shows the majority of the public no longer visit stations and instead make phone calls, use the internet or social media to contact officers.

Shopping centre's new owners pledge investment

A SHOPPING centre in Brierley Hill has been bought by a property firm which has pledged to attract extra new shops.

The Moor Centre has been purchased by Evolve Estates for an undisclosed sum.

The London-based property company, which has a property portfolio worth almost £100 million, said it will invest in the 14-unit centre on the High Street.

Traders and councillors have welcomed the move and hope it will help the regeneration of Brierley Hill.

Danny O'Keefe, partner at Evolve Estates, said: "We will be investing in a programme of refurbishment and improvements to significantly improve the scheme for the benefit of occupiers and their customers.

"Along with our managing agents, London and Cambridge Properties, who are located close to Brierley Hill, we will be working closely with Dudley Council and Brierley Hill businesses to ensure the success of the centre — attracting a greater footfall and a range of new tenants."

Vibrant

The centre already has several big name tenants including Iceland, Superdrug, Boots, BetFred and Greggs.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "The Moor Centre could be a really vibrant and viable centre, like it has been in the past. We welcome anybody coming in to invest in the area and I hope that they will work with both the council and councillors, as well as the community. We want to continue to drive the regeneration of the High Street."

Shane Birch-Bastock, chairman of Brierley Hill Traders Association, said: "It is good to finally see investment in the area."

Subsidence cash claims are refused

MORE than £150,000 has been paid out to tackle subsidence caused by old mines in the region over the last 12 months.

The Coal Authority shelled out the cash on investigating and carrying out improvement works.

A Freedom of Information request revealed the authority, which manages the effects of past coal mining, had been called out to investigate 54 cases of subsidence in the Black Country, Staffordshire, Wyre Forest and Birmingham.

In Dudley, and parts of north Worcestershire, there were nine reported call-outs, but only two were confirmed as subsidence, costing £13,673.

The authority refused all 32 claims for compensation from land and home owners it had received in 2013/14 and it would not reveal the reasons why.

The body paid out £400,000 in claims between 2010 and 2013.

Residents and businesses in coal mining areas can make claims for subsidence damage to the authority.

Removal of trees criticised as 'vandalism'

Sally Barton is angry about trees in Mary Stevens Park being chopped down as part of 'improvements'

MATURE trees near to a war memorial in Stourbridge have been cut down in an act branded 'vandalism' by an angry resident.

Sally Barton, of Norton, has criticised removal of the row of conifers at Mary Stevens Park saying more consultation should have taken place with residents before they got the chop.

The trees have been removed as part of a £3.1 million project to improve the Stanley Road park.

A £2.6 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant had been received to carry out works. Officials say removal of the trees will allow better access to the war memorial for those using mobility scooters.

But Mrs Barton, who lives near the park, said the move had taken away from the beauty of the park.

"Anyone who has stood with head bowed over the years on a bleak November morning on Remembrance Sunday will know how thankful they are for the presence of the row of trees to protect them from the cold wind," she said. "It is so sad to have seen them removed. Rather than the background of these healthy trees, all you can see behind the monument now is buildings. It is terribly sad."

Councillor Heather Rogers, Chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park, said removal of the trees had always been part of the plan. "Information on this part of the project has been available for a long time and the work was necessary," she added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vet's surgery plan for shutdown pub

A FORMER pub will be converted into a veterinary surgery under new plans.

The proposals have been revealed for the Cottage Spring in Mill Street, Brierley Hill

A report by developers states: "The premises ceased trading as a public house many years ago and as a consequence has been let vacant for well over two years... the site has a road frontage, access driveway to a large rear parking area and garden making this an ideal site for veterinary use."

The plans will be considered by Dudley Council.

Ready steady bake at living museum

YOUNGSTERS inspired by the Great British Bake Off can put their skills to the test at the Black Country Living Museum.

Events will be staged at the attraction, in Tipton Road, Dudley, during half term, when visitors can watch demonstrations of how bread was baked in the 19th century. Youngsters can have a go at making biscuits on a traditional cast-iron range.

Family tickets are available and can be booked online at www.bclm.com

Magical mystery talk on Midlands

HISTORIAN and author Ian Bott will present a talk at a history society meeting tonight (Thursday).

Sedgley Local History Society will host a 'Magical Midlands Mystery Tour' presented by Mr Bott, a Wednesbury historian, on stately homes, inns and other places of interest across the region. It takes place at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street. £1 admission.

Oompah & chips is on the menu

IT'S oompah time with a night of traditional German beer drinking music with a British twist.

Karl's Bavarian Brass Band will be at a beer and music night at Wilson Hall, Colley Gate, on February 28 at 7.45pm in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets cost £14 including fish and chip supper. Call (01384) 671149.

Help for badger

AN INJURED badger was rescued by police after being spotted outside Sandwell Magistrates' Court in Oldbury. PCSO Kate Heatley called RSPCA for help as she could see the animal was in pain.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

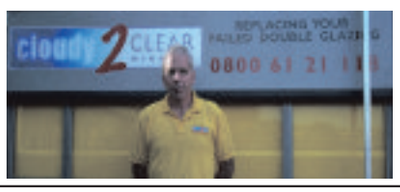
It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

SOME years ago, a former chancellor of the exchequer once remarked that mobile phones were 'the scourge of modern society'. He was wrong.

Norman Lamont's comments came long before smart phones and text messaging, which have turned a generation of teenagers into zombies.

But even in the early 1990s, mobile phones were starting to grate. However, that irritation pales into insignificance compared to the another supposed advance in telecommunications technology: the automated telephone system.

You know it, you make a phone call and are greeted by words to the effect "I can't be bothered to pick up the phone, so press one if you want another tedious set of options, press two if you want to be put on hold for 10 minutes, or press three if you are a new customer and have your credit card handy, in which case we will gladly part you from your money."

Actually, those precise words are very seldom used, which is a shame, because at least they would be honest. But you get the drift.

Now, such devices do have their place, such as paying utility bills, where it is easier to key in a few digits rather than dropping a cheque off in the post. But is there anything more infuriating than calling, say, a school, and having to listen to a string of messages about 'student absences' before you can get to speak to a member of staff? Aside from the fact schools don't have students. They have pupils.

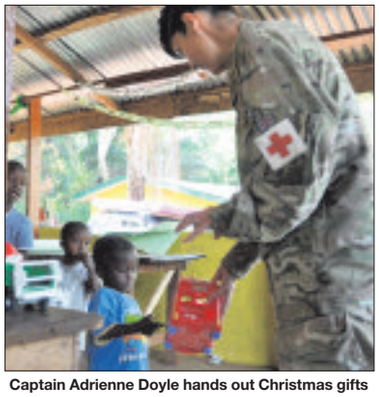
Last week, I twice tried to top up my pay-as-you-go mobile phone using one of these automated lines, and on neither occasion was my account successfully credited. So how do you get through to an operator for help? You can hear all about how pressing different buttons will allow you to sign up to free calls, unlimited texts and 4G data packages, but if nothing happens, there is no option to actually speak to an operator. I still don't know now whether I have paid for the unlimited free calls and texts I haven't received.

If businesses want to prosper, they would do well to remember that customers will only tolerate so much of this. And for the public sector organisations which use this hateful technology: pick up the flipping phone.

□□□□□

MPs were out in force last week to vote overwhelmingly in favour of creating 'three parent' babies, using a mixture of carefully-blended DNA to prevent genetic defects in children.

On balance, I'm still on the fence on this one, I can see the arguments from both sides. But isn't it strange that while politicians who spend years deliberating over the merits or otherwise of genetically modified tomatoes, they suddenly become so decisive on the subject of genetically-modified children?



Captain Adrienne Doyle hands out Christmas gifts

Biomedical scientist Adrian Smith

Adrian with his girlfriend Joanne – 'a rock'

Adrian on call for Ebola crisis help

An Army Reservist is to fly out to Sierra Leone to help deal with the Ebola virus. **NIGEL SLATER** reports

A RESERVIST soldier from the Black Country is to fly out to West Africa to help the Army in its fight against the deadly Ebola virus.

Adrian Smith, who works in the Biomedical Science (BMS) department at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, is in the final stages of training for deployment to Sierra Leone and was expecting to fly out with 202 Field Hospital to Kerrytown, subject to passing his validation exam some time this week.

More than 8,800 people have died of Ebola in West Africa, with 22,092 infected with the disease.

Fragile health services are struggling to cope with the pressure on services, as well as a lack of trained health workers and equipment.

Patterns

The first group of 150 Army medical staff flew out to Sierra Leone in October last year, where they set up a treatment centre for infected health workers.

Adrian, from Wednesfield, will be investigating patient samples for Ebola patterns as part of a four-strong BMS team.

He said: "It is an honour to be called out to and I'll do all that I can.

"It is without doubt going to be one of the most challenging experiences of my life. It doesn't come much bigger than this. Being in the Army Reserve, I always anticipated a call was going to come and now it has, I am humbled and am ready for the challenge."

Adrian, who has a degree in Biomedical Science has been working at New Cross Hospital for more than 13 years.

With previous service in the Royal Artillery in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he joined what was the Territorial Army almost two years ago.

He is currently an Army Reservist with 202 (Midlands) Field Hospital, a Reserve unit that has recent experience in providing deployed hospital care in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Field Hospital operates using tents or existing buildings to provide medical care to soldiers and, where necessary civilians, in the field.

Adrian said: "It's scary but very exciting at the same time. This is the challenge I've wanted to be involved with for sometime and the reason that I joined the Army Reserve."

The 46-year-old is expected to be in Sierra Leone until the end of April.

He said: "The support I've had from friends and family has been so overwhelming. I've even had my work colleagues give me goodie bags in preparation for what is ahead.

"I'm going to miss my family and my girlfriend Joanne but have told them I'll be on the phone to them as much as I can. I can understand their worry but they know it is something I've wanted to do for some time. I've been with Joanne for about a year now and she has been a rock for me. I'm going to miss her so much.

Adrian said: "I think the biggest challenge will be the emotional side of things.

"The television images are hard to cope with so seeing it for real will be on another scale."

Adrian said it is vital for everyone to come together to fight the spread of the disease.

For more information on Ebola and to donate funds to the relief effort visit www.unicef.org.uk

Medical personnel carry out practice exercises prior to the opening of the Kerry Town Treatment Centre

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE Black Country Growth Deal promises £162 million and a wish list of huge projects, but forgive me if I won't believe it until I see it.

I'm not being negative about this. It's fantastic.

The deal promises the long-awaited rebuild of Wolverhampton's rail station, a major revamp of the Civic Halls, new buildings for colleges in Dudley and Halesowen, improvements to junction 10 of the M6, 5,000 jobs and 1,400 homes.

It is effectively the blueprint for putting these great towns and city on the path to prosperity, a brighter future and so on.

The problem is it's not a done deal. There is still the matter of the authorities getting the go-ahead to borrow the money for the rail station or raise it another way.

At the end of this month it'll be 10 years since I started training to be a reporter. In all that time there has been the plan to rebuild what is an embarrassingly ugly rail station that does nothing to welcome would-be investors to the city of Wolverhampton.

Progress has been made, of course. The bus station's been up for almost four years and the new office and shop block nearby is getting going. But the rail station itself limps on. New designs have come and gone.The more that happens, the more difficult it becomes to generate anything akin to excitement among the people who should be welcoming this with open arms – the travelling public.

There are some very upbeat messages coming out of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, which has done well to establish itself in its own right alongside larger neighbour, the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (there's a mouthful).

Stewart Towe, the Black Country LEP's chairman, had a wonderful turn of phrase when he introduced cities minister Greg Clark at the growth deal signing ceremony at the Civic Halls. He explained how Mr Clark had seen the rail station represented an 'opportunity' for development. That's a kinder description than the Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin gave when he said it was 'awful'.

It's good we have people like Mr Towe going to bat for us when it comes to campaigning for funding. He will be far more diplomatic about seeking funding or devolved powers than a lot of people who have kept looking at artists' impressions rather than seeing cranes on the skyline.

Maybe there will be a pre-election rabbit pulled from the hat when it comes to the rest of the money to get things started.

Now is definitely the right time for vote-seeking parties to start making promises to voters in marginal seats like the Black Country. But excuse commuters for not holding their breath yet.

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Car parking at park is now 'total chaos'

THE parking at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge is now total chaos, even worse now than when Children's Services first moved there ten months ago. How Dudley Council can take such a heavy handed attitude is beyond belief of the residents of Stourbridge.

Before Children's Services moved there, this problem was highlighted when it was learnt that there were 250-plus workers due to be moved to the buildings that are set in the park grounds. Dudley Council seemed to ignore the pending problem.

The forecast problem occurred as soon as Children's Services moved into the building which Dudley Council turned into offices.

This building was donated by Ernest Stevens to Stourbridge Council, and the use of the building was stipulated Ernest Stevens. However, no land was donated with the building.

Ernest Stevens donated all the land to the people of Stourbridge as a park, and so it has been since 1931.

Dudley Council's attitude appears to be that they will take over the park's car parks and ignore the needs of the people that want to use the facilities of the park and the car park that was intended for them.

Dudley Council has no right to take up the spaces that was intended for park use. Dudley Council has no land there and no car park.

I have nothing against the people that work in those offices, they are welcome to come and park there and use the facilities of the park, but once they have finished using those facilities they must remove their cars from the car park so other people can do the same.

R WOODIER
Stourbridge

Memory of an inspiring art teacher

I am trying to find out more about an old friend of the family, Jeff Mills, who taught art for many years in Halesowen College. He was a friendly character, who hailed from Tonyrefail in Wales, and went from there to the Slade School of Art, before coming to Halesowen to teach.

He and my father, Harry Hopkins, were friends and colleagues, and often exhibited their paintings together in Halesowen in the 1960s and 70s. They founded the Halesowen Arts Club and were very active in the artistic life of the town. My father retired back to Wales, and although they were in touch for some years, when my father finally passed away I could not trace Jeff.

He was a greatly valued friend and inspirational artist and teacher — I hope someone in Halesowen remembers him, as I do, with affection.

E HOPKINS
Carms
eirwenhopkins@aol.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Bring back sit and wait at GP surgeries

I HAVE long advocated the old sit and wait system should be bought back to doctors surgeries and, after reading a letter in your paper from a GP, I am even more convinced that it has got to be a better way.

He/she stated that so many people do not attend their appointment that he/she wastes up to seven hours a month because of this. One of the reasons patients don't attend is because they have had to wait so long for their appointment they have got better in the meantime, or in some cases they have got worse and they have ended up in hospital.

Yes they should cancel the appointment and maybe if they have got better anyway they did not need the appointment in the first place but surely that problem would be eliminated if they went back to the old system and had morning and afternoon sessions with a final time for arriving on each session. I also think there should be surgeries at weekends too. There are of course advantages in the appointment system for working people, so surely the two systems could be run side by side and at least it would reduce the problem of none attendance somewhat.

Would it be so difficult for doctors to sort a rota system to accommodate this?

J JAMES
Wordsley

We should bring back foxhunting

WHEN I was a child we used to live near Oldswinford Rail Station and my father used to keep chickens in a shed in the back garden.

We had about 25 birds and one morning we got up to find three dead. Next day there were another three dead. He lost the rest of them week after week .

When I was five years I had six white rabbits. One morning I went out to feed them and found two of the baby rabbits dead, so dad changed where they slept, and then two days later another two were found dead and, two weeks later, the last of my prize winning rabbits were dead.

I used to put my son outside after his breakfast in his pram while I got on with the housework. When I went to get him in for his dinner I found a fox sitting on his pram. He was never put in the back garden again. So I'm all for fox hunting. Bring it on.

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Over 40 Years Experience

Some of the Butler's FC players are seen with their cup winner's shields

Pete Edwards in his Albion hat joins in with the singing

Action from the final of the Express & Star's six-a-side cup from back in 1954

Loyalty stretched far beyond our side when Baggies won the cup

MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

ALTHOUGH I was born a Villa fan, Our Dad always instilled into us the importance of supporting the Midland teams if the Villa were knocked out of any cup-run.

As the later 1960s was the bleakest of times for the fortunes of the Villa, that meant that each season we were having to back another Midland side, in the FA Cup especially.

In 1969 it was Leicester City who had our backing, although they lost against Manchester City in the final; but the year before it was West Bromwich Albion in their 1-0 victory over Everton to win the trophy.

Our Dad was even more delighted that it was a local team, a West Midlands club, that had won. In fact he was so chuffed that he took me and our Kid, Darryl, up town to cheer on the victorious Albion players when they arrived at New Street station in Birmingham on Sunday, May 19, the day after the match. There were several thousand of us around there but that was just the start of the celebrations as The Times reckoned that 'about 250,000 Midlanders turned out' to watch West Bromwich Albion 'return in triumph with the Football Association Cup'.

From New Street, a 10-mile route was taken to West Bromwich and so great were the crowds along the way that they 'repeatedly broke through police cordons.

Outside West Bromwich Town Hall, an estimated 10,000 Albion fans were packed in, 30 deep, on either side of the road and behind police lines. Many of them were 'perched in trees, on rooftops, and chimneys 40 feet up'.

When Graham Williams, the captain, emerged on the dais outside the Town Hall and held aloft the trophy, the crowd waved and cheered. The cheering swelled as each player came out to hold the cup, but the biggest acclaim of all was for Jeff Astle, the centre-forward who had scored the only goal in the game.

Reg Clare also has a story relating to West Bromwich Albion. A while ago he and his wife spent the New Year at Blackpool. He says: "We had a fantastic time.

"The hotel was owned and run by a man from Tipton. All the residents were from the Midlands, and a lot of them were West Bromwich Albion supporters. A question came up: 'How did they get the nickname the Baggies?'.

"Years ago I had heard that when they entered the league, they found themselves not so well-off and ready for folding, so they gave their loyal supporters little bags, and asked them and their friends to put a few coppers into them and bring them back next home match. This they did for a few weeks and they paid all debts. Management then said 'to show our appreciation to you loyal supporters and these little bags, if it wasn't for them we wouldn't be where we are, so I'm going to call you little baggies'. Thus arose The Baggies.

Meanwhile, Mr C Pritchard has kindly sent in these three photographs taken in 1954, the year that he was born, and which include his father, Benjamin Ivan Pritchard, who is the goalkeeper.

The game was the final of the Express & Star's six-a-side cup. Benjamin's team was Butler's FC. Mr Pritchard says: "He worked for Butler's brewery in Springfield Road off Cannock Road in Wolverhampton. Dad was in the RAF and also played football for the RAF in India which was his base.

"He also played for Wolves and became third team goalkeeper as understudy for the late, great Bert Williams. Dad also played for Darlaston FC after he left Wolves FC.

Mr Pritchard adds: "I also have the winners' shield Dad received in the photo of the Express & Star final. I would like to know what happened to the Express & Star Cup, where is it kept now and where the pitch was – and also the name of the other team who played in that final, and who presented the cup. The two children behind dad in the photo are my brother and sister."

Goalie Benjamin Pritchard gets the Express & Star Cup

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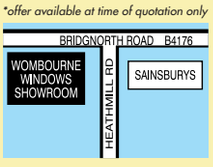

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New council boss ready to make hard decisions

THE new boss of Dudley Council is fully aware of the difficult decisions ahead as the authority continues to cope with Government cuts.

Seven years on from the global financial crisis and balancing the books is still top of the agenda for newly appointed chief executive Sarah Norman but she is confident in her role.

The council has already proposed savings amounting to £27.4 million by 2017/18 but a further £30m cash hole has yet to be accounted for.

"We need to make sure we are as lean and as efficient an organisation as we possibly can be," she said. "That means there will have to be some difficult decisions.

"There is no way local government can cope with the reductions in Government funding without making some painful changes to services.

'It's about doing things differently' — Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman

Experience

"This means we will need to look at everything. When you have to save £30m nothing can be protected."

In the desperate hunt to find savings the 52-year-old will be able to draw on a wealth of experience in local government. Before taking up the £165,000 a year role in January, Ms Norman had been strategic director for community at Wolverhampton City Council, where she worked for seven years.

The mother-of-two had previously served for eight years as an elected councillor in Liverpool, where she lived for 18 years.

The keen runner, originally from North London, is confident budget demands can be met.

"We have a lot of money to save but I think Dudley has got a good track record to build on — we are already half way there," she said.

"Now it is about how do we strengthen families to reduce the number of children in care? How do we keep adults as independent as possible as well so we don't have to provide as much adult social care support? There is also a whole strand of work to undertake about doing things differently."

Ms Norman says strengthening the borough's economy will be one of her priorities. She believes improved transport links will play a vital role and has backed plans for a light rail hub connecting Dudley to the national rail network for the first time in more than 50 years.

Ms Norman comes into the role on the back of a decision to axe 11 senior management positions out of the 22 in a bid to save £1m. In total 700 jobs have been cut over four years.

She insists her role is an important one. "It is very important the council as a whole gets its leadership from one person," she said. "It is very difficult to imagine how a council could work effectively without a single point of senior leadership."

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Mother, 77, taking fight for justice to Europe

MARY Law's fight began when her son died at the age of 51, after a career working as an electrician in factories where he was exposed to asbestos.

Since then she has been battling for greater compensation for the families of asbestos victims.

Now the 77-year-old from Dudley has taken her campaign to Italy where a ruling against the boss of a firm which allegedly contributed to the death of hundreds was overturned.

Mrs Law, whose son Roy Shipley died in 2010, opened the Arc-Aid charity shop in New Street, Dudley, four years ago and also works as a chiropodist.

After getting involved with the Mesothelioma UK charity, she became aware of the case against Swiss billionaire Stephan Schmidheiny who is accused of failing to ensure the safety of workers in asbestos-cement plants run by his now defunct Eternit group in Italy in the 1970s and 80s. More than 3,000 workers died.

Rome

He was convicted in 2012, after a three-year trial, and sentenced in absentia to 16 years in prison. But a court in Rome has since ruled that he should not have been convicted because the verdict came more than 12 years after the crime. This made the case subject to a 'limitation' law.

Mrs Law and fellow protesters waved banners and placards outside the Italian court and is planning to attend an appeal hearing in Belgium.

"I'm furious about what has happened. I'm very angry about the lack of support for the families of victims," she said. "In this country the Government is not ensuring that people get enough compensation.

Asbestos compensation campaigner Mary Law has protested in Rome

"My son had mesothelioma of the abdomen and didn't stand a chance."

A court ruling in 2013 meant thousands of sufferers and their dependants in the UK will be able to get damages from a special £350 million pot over the next decade. Those diagnosed after July 25, 2012, who cannot sue former employers as they have gone bust or insurance details were lost, will be eligible.

Mrs Law says thousands of families are not getting enough compensation. About 2,400 people die every year of the disease and numbers are set to increase over the next 30 years.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Raising a glass at whisky festival

WHISKY enthusiasts can can enjoy a dram or two when an annual festival returns to the Black Country.

The seventh Midlands Whisky Festival is coming to Stourbridge Town Hall on March 27 and 28.

For the first time, the event is being held over two days. Many of the world's leading distilleries will be attending, including Macallan, Glenmorangie and Jura, among more than 20 whisky makers at the exhibition.

Festival director David Gardener said: "We have a weekend show this year to enable a greater audience."

The event runs from 6pm to 9pm on the Friday and noon to 5.30pm on the Saturday. Visit www.whiskyfest.co.uk for more information.

Youngsters get crafty at museum

YOUNG visitors are being urged to celebrate the half-term break by learning about the rest of the world.

The school holiday promises globe-trotting fun at Worcestershire County Museum at Hartlebury Castle with the event, entitled Let's Celebrate, enabling children to explore the festivals and special days which happen around the world each February.

From South American carnivals to Chinese New Year there will be plenty to get involved with between10.30am and 4pm from Tuesday to Friday. Call the museum on 01299 250416 or visit the www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk website for timetable and prices.

Apology over care staff private letters mistake

CONFIDENTIAL letters containing information on employment contracts for staff working at a care home in Dudley have been mistakenly sent to elderly residents' families.

Officials at Dudley Council have apologised for the 'administrative error'. Some families of residents at New Bradley Hall care home received the letters.

Campaigners who have fought to save the care home in Kingswinford from closure say they are shocked at the latest issue surrounding New Bradley Hall.

By Andrew Turton

Day to day management of the home, in Compton Drive, is being transferred from Dudley Council to Black Country Housing Group (BCGH).

The letters, marked 'private and confidential', detail how contracts will be transferred to staff once the transfer to BCGH is completed on February 20.

They were mistakenly addressed to relatives of residents but do not contain details of individual staff members themselves.

Appalled

UKIP Councillor Paul Brothwood says he is 'appalled' by the error which saw up to six letters sent out mistakenly.

"I have campaigned hard, with the help of local residents, to stop this transfer but Dudley Council is pig-headedly pushing this through," said Councillor Brothwood. "This latest fiasco demonstrates the continuous poor consultation with all those affected. I hope this latest blunder will make them think twice about this."

Councillor Dave Branwood, who is in charge of adult and community services, said: "We have investigated and found this was an administrative error and we have contacted residents and families individually to apologise for the mistake.

"With regard to the transfer of New Bradley Hall, things are progressing well but as with all complex legal processes these things can take time. Our main priority from the very beginning was getting this transfer 100 per cent right for the residents and staff at the home.

"We expect to complete the process in the next few weeks. I must reiterate this is not a privatisation of the home, New Bradley Hall is being transferred to a not-for-profit organisation with a nationally-acclaimed track record and a stable financial footing."

Film options for novelist's second thriller

Steve Watson, AKA SJ Watson, whose latest thriller,Second Life, is published this week

FILM makers are lining up to turn a Stourbridge author's latest novel into a blockbuster – before it has even been published

Steve Watson's debut novel Before I Go To Sleep topped best seller lists and was made into a film starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth. Now the novelist, who writes under the name SJ Watson, is set to see his second book, called Second Life, follow suit.

It is not officially published until today (Thursday) but the author has revealed there is already demand for the film rights. He said: "There is interest and some quite exciting names being mentioned but it is far too early for me to say any more. It's not my job dealing with all that."

He has become one of the biggest names on the book scene after the massive international success of thriller Before I Go To Sleep, published in 2011. Before that he was a writer in his spare time who grew up in Stourbridge and had moved to London to work as an audiology specialist.

Second Life tells the story of a woman whose life is turned upside down when her sister is murdered.

Anger at allocation of homes pay out

COMMUNITY projects will receive less than £90,000 from a Government fund, sparking fury from village campaigners.

Bromsgrove District Council's cabinet agreed £87,000 from the New Homes Bonus be used for schemes across the district during the 2015/16 financial year. Councillor Mike Webb, district finance boss, confirmed the figure, which is 25 per cent of the final 2015/16 grant of £348,000.

Campaigners blasted the move branding the sum 'totally unacceptable' and saying more cash should be made available for communities such as Hagley and Clent.

Cash from the scheme is paid by Government to councils when the number of houses increases in an area. Under the scheme, the council receives £1,455 for each house built. But campaigners claim villages most affected by new housing developments, including Hagley, are not benefitting.

Council officials previously decided to place the money into a central pot. It prompted residents in Hagley to raise a petition calling for the funding to be passed on.

District councillor for Hagley Steve Colella said: " I was left bitterly disappointed with the conclusion that less than £90,000 will be allocated to community projects. That is less than £3 per household in terms of community benefit"

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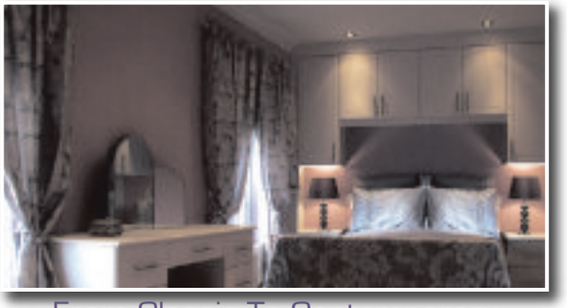

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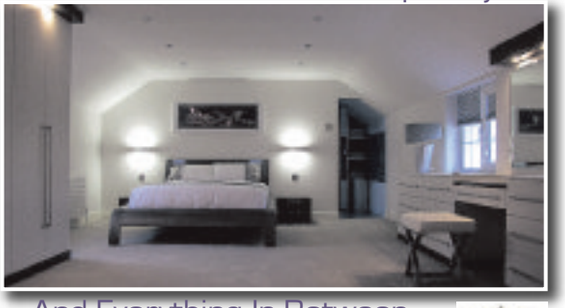

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Homes boss is delighted by sales

'Thrilled with the turnout' — Cala Homes sales and marketing director Robert Monkman at Wychbury Fields

MORE than 170 attended the launch of a development of 175 homes on the edge of a village near Stourbridge.

Despite opposition from some residents in Hagley, Cala Homes won permission to build the homes on land off Stourbridge Road, whilst also paying to upgrade the village's facilities. The properties have been a hit with buyers as there are now just seven of 17 properties left for purchase in phase one of the Wychbury Fields development. The first residents are expected to move in during April.

Sales director Robert Monkman said: "We are absolutely thrilled with the turnout, response and positive feedback received at Wychbury Fields' launch."

Hospital to improve care

A HOSPITAL has made changes to improve care after an inquest revealing concerns about pain management and wound care.

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said changes had been made after Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique told an inquest more could have been done to ease the suffering of Medina Jones, who died from complications resulting from kidney disease.

Mrs Jones, aged 42, of Brierley Hill, had been diagnosed with the rare condition calciphylaxis, which results in chronic non-healing wounds

Concerns were raised by family lawyer Anna Diamond that Mrs Jones' wounds had not been dressed properly, while a tissue viability nurse had not been involved early enough.

Ms Clark said: "We do acknowledge the coroner's comments around shortfalls in her nursing care and that there were issues with pain management and wound care, for which we have wholeheartedly apologised.

"We undertook a thorough investigation at the time of Mrs Jones's death in April 2013, and, as a result, we have carried out an audit of wound charts used within the Trust and we are in the process of reviewing and refining their content."

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Families in plea to keep free nursery transport

ANGRY parents turned out for a public meeting to voice their concerns over Dudley Council's plans to cut free transport for children with special needs.

The council currently pays for dozens of children with additional needs to travel to specialist nurseries. But it says it is not legally required to provide the service and has launched a consultation to bring in charges, saving more than £200,000 a year.

More than a dozen people attended a public meeting at Insight House, Brierley Hill, to raise their concerns.

Mother-of-two Kirsty Barrett, of Dudley, said: "These children deserve the best education and care possible."

Labour Councillor Ian Marrey, who has a disabled son, said: "I hope we can roll back these plans. On this important matter I cannot agree with Dudley Council because it conflicts with what I know as a parent."

A petition has been launched against the proposed cuts to free transport.

After the meeting Councillor Tim Crumpton, who is in charge of children's services, said: "There were plenty of strong feelings expressed. We will never get it completely right but we want to learn from this and get as many opinions and feedback together as possible."

Three-year-old Olivia France with her mum Leah makes her views known to Councillor Tim Crumpton

MP wants energy bill help extended

AN MP is calling for fuel bills to be frozen after a new report showed that tens of thousands of children in Staffordshire and the Black Country are in homes with energy debts.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is backing a campaign launched by the Children's Society to get more help for low income households so that parents can pay gas and electricity bills. He has written to Energy Secretary Ed Davey after the charity's survey found that 20,500 youngsters in the Black Country alone were affected.

The figures have been revealed as part of the charity's 'Show Some Warmth' campaign for energy companies to offer support to families who fall behind with payments.

Across Dudley borough 9,700 children are living in homes with arrears. Energy companies are obliged to help disabled and elderly people with energy debts.The Children's Society wants families to benefit from the same support — fair payment plans and cheapest tariffs.

Fatal crash motorist's sentence is 'justified'

A DRIVER who had never had a driving lesson before he killed his passenger in a high-speed smash deserves every day of his jail term, top judges have ruled.

Ashley David Lovekin, aged 25, from Dudley, lost control of a Peugeot 206 while racing another car before slamming into a lamp post in a collision that left 31-year-old Nicola Robinson dead.

Lovekin, who previously served a custodial term for killing his mother's boyfriend, was jailed for five years and eight months at Wolverhampton Crown Court last July.

He admitted that his dangerous driving caused Ms Robinson's death, as well as serious injury to his other passenger.

Lovekin, of Springfield Road, Dudley, was ruled a 'dangerous' offender and was ordered to serve five years on extended licence after his release.

Jailed — Ashley Lovekin

Rejected

Three senior judges at a hearing on Friday at London's Appeal Court rejected his challenge to his sentence.

Mr Justice Mitting said Lovekin got behind the wheel of the Peugeot at about 3.45am on August 4, 2013 – despite having no licence, no insurance and never having had a driving lesson.

With Ms Robinson and a 23-year-old man in the car, he was seen travelling at over 50mph in a 30mph zone along Birmingham Road, Blakenhall, in the lead up to the crash.

While racing an Audi and pulling in and out of his lane, Lovekin lost control and smashed into a lamp post. Ms Robinson was killed while the other passenger was badly hurt. Lovekin received minor injuries.

On appeal, Lovekin's lawyers insisted that he was 'not a menace' and that he had shown genuine remorse and that the risk of him behaving in the same way again was minimal.

Appeal judge Mr Justice Mitting said Lovekin's punishment was 'entirely justified', adding: "The judge was entitled to find that the sentence must protect the public from the significant risk of serious harm posed by further offending. For that reason this renewed application (for permission to appeal) is refused."

Radio enthusiasts told to remove masts

AMATEUR radio enthusiasts have been told masts which have been put up in their gardens in Halesowen and Cradley will have to come down.

Planners at Dudley Council refused applications for the structures to remain, due to the impact they would have on neighbours.

The mast in Kiniths Way, Halesowen, would have stretched to a height of eight metres when in use and reduced to two metres the rest of the time. Another mast proposed for Tree Acre Grove in Cradley was slimmer but reached nine metres when in use.

Councillor Qadar Zada. planning committee chairman, said he 'wouldn't like to wake up' to either structure.

He said of the application for Kiniths Way : "I think it is quite an intrusive structure. I can't support this on the basis of the significant impact on the visual amenity.

"It can't be a good sight to wake up to."

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Inspiring a generation of learners

Head girl and boy Jolin and Ben with chairman of governors Malcolm Kendall, Ann Norgate and Stephen Brown, of the arts society, with Brockmoor headteacher Brad Jones

Headteacher Brad Jones with head girl and boy Jolin and Ben with art co-ordinator Ann Norgate and Brockmoor Primary chairman of governors Malcolm Kendall

EDUCATION FEATURE

NOVEMBER 17 2014 saw a very special anniversary at Brockmoor Primary School in Brierley Hill.

It was 20 years since the school had moved into brand new premises on Belle Isle.

The big question was just how to commemorate this?

It was then that Brad Jones, Headteacher at Brockmoor, made contact with Stourbridge Decorative and Fine Arts Society (SFDAS) and together they came up with an extremely exciting plan.

SFDAS provided funds for children in Year 6 to work with local artist Charlotte Hughes-Martin, from the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, to create glass panels showing their favourite characters from children's literature.

SFDAS, which has been in existence for more than 50 years, is part of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies and meets at Stourbridge Town Hall once a month for lectures. One of the society's main aims is to encourage children and young people to participate in the arts

The children were also asked to design a rainbow of glazed tiles for the hall based on their own answers to the question "Where will you be in 20 years?"

Imaginative

There are many varied and imaginative careers featured in this colourful and impressive display, including racing drivers, nurses, teachers and engineers

This work started during the anniversary week itself and the children were really engaged in the process from start to finish.

Head Boy and Head Girl at Brockmoor, Ben and Jolin, were both very enthusiastic.

They had really enjoyed working with the glass to create something so special and showed their own glass panels with a great deal of pride

Dynamic dragon — one of the colourful glass panels at Brockmoor Primary

SFDA Young Arts Co-ordinator Ann Norgate said: "This year we were very proud to be involved with this project.

"It was very exciting to see children working in such an innovative way and to involve them in glass making which is so much a part of the local heritage."

The legacy these fantastic pieces of art will provide is a snapshot of the school in 2014 for future pupils and visitors to enjoy.

Headteacher Brad Jones summed it up when he said: "My hope is that, in 20 years time, the children who created these fantastic displays will return to this school and inspire the next generation of learners."

Schools in Stourbridge interested in working with SFDAS can contact Ann Norgate on 01562 850100 or email norgatep@blueyonder.co.uk for further information.

Artist Charlotte Hughes-Martin can be contacted for bespoke art projects on 07854514855.

Brockmoor Primary School

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No-one can stop cuts, says top Tory Pickles

MORE cuts will be made to local councils regardless of which party wins the General Election, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has warned.

The minister, who was visiting Halesowen and Kingswinford last week, said local authorities had to stop 'empire building' and start to share more services.

When asked if the level of funding cuts were sustainable, Mr Pickles bullishly said: "It is completely sustainable.

"Satisfaction in local government and the level of reserves have never been higher.

"It doesn't matter who is running the country after the election, the amount of money is going down.

"If councils believe they need more money then it is up to them to make the case to the people and run a referendum."

Appropriate

"Telling residents to expect 'more pain' is not appropriate language to use.

"Councils across the country have been able to find these sums.

"We have done a great deal in giving money where it is needed and have said to them if they are able to generate extra income they can keep it.

"They know what the situation is. We have put money in where the pressure is greatest.

"They really cannot expect to have empires and need to co-operate more with neighbours."

As part of cost-cutting measures Dudley Council has controversially turned to dimming or switching off street lights.

Residents have expressed fears it will lead to an increase in crime.

Eric Pickles, right, out in Kingswinford with candidate Mike Wood

Mr Pickles said such decisions should be taken after talks with residents.

He said: "It has to be a local choice. The big difference now is that we have LED and new technology which has made it more efficient."

Mr Pickles was knocking on doors with Conservative campaigners in Halesowen and Kingswinford, both in marginal constituencies.

In Halesowen he met with MP James Morris and in Kingswinford he met up with Tory prospective parliamentary candidate Mike Wood for Dudley South.

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Texas celebrating 25 years of music

Album Reviews

By Leon Burakowski

GLASWEGIAN band Texas celebrate their silver anniversary with an album that reworks their biggest hits and includes four new songs.

One of those new tunes, Start A Family, sets the soulful standard on **Texas 25** (Pias) with a tender vocal from Sharleen Spiteri and a lush arrangement glowing with Hammond organ and slide guitar.

Black Eyed Boy is reinvented as a Motown stomper, Say What You Want has fatter bass and horns, Halo and Inner Smile are given southern soul makeovers, while The Conversation gets a voodoo vibe.

When We Are Together finds Sharleen emulating Diana Ross on a Supremes-like revamp.

Funkier

Their best known song, I Don't Want A Lover, is funkier on these New York-recorded Truth & Soul Sessions whilst keeping the signature slide guitar. Summer Son is given a reggae-like lilt plus lots more Hammond and echo.

Of the new songs, Are You Ready is the weakest but is pleasant enough with its surf guitar and sing-along chorus. Supafly Boy is pure 60s with a Sliced Tomatoes-like backing. Say Goodbye echoes both Say What You Want and Al Green's back catalogue.

If these revamped versions make you nostalgic for the originals, among the various formats of album from February 16 is a double CD pack containing the original hits too. Expect a stripped back, semi-acoustic approach when Sharleen and her boys present An Evening with Texas at Birmingham Symphony Hall on April 19.

London siblings **Kitty, Daisy and Lewis** Durham return with **The Third** — yes it's album number three — exploring a diversity of retro stylings, often with harmonica to the fore on this Sunday Best release.

Sharleen Spiteri, singer with Texas, who have given their repertoire a revamp

Highlights include bluebeat chugger Baby Bye Bye, Kinks-like opener Whenever You See Me, the bluesy Good Looking Woman and Imelda May-ish rockabilly number It Ain't Your Business, all produced by former Clash guitarist Mick Jones.

Jazz singer and pianist **Diana Krall** reworks several modern standards and personalises them in her restrained style that remains somewhat minimalist despite lush production on new album **Wallflower** (Verve).

Songs getting the Krall treatment include California Dreamin', Desperado, Superstar, I'm Not In Love, Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word and Don't Dream It's Over. There are a couple of star duets, Michael Bublé joining Krall for a version of Gilbert O'Sullivan's achingly sad Alone Again and Feels Like Home with Bryan Adams.

The key track is a new Paul McCartney song, written for Krall, with the former Beatle in full-on romantic mode for I'll Take You Home Tonight which sounds like a lost Wings classic, which she gives due gravitas.

She will be kicking off her UK tour at Birmingham Symphony Hall on September 28.

Despite a sexist sleeve, that was par for the course in the 70s, **The Best of Cerrone Productions** (Because) is a hugely enjoyable glitterball of 70s disco from the stable of ace French producer Marc **Cerrone**. This 36-track double set involves more panting than in the average marathon, lots of pulsating electronics and decadent strings, and bland choral singing, under Cerrone's own name and various pseudonyms/protégés.

Flamboyant

Cerrone and Italian counterpart Giorgio 'I Feel Love' Moroder practically invented disco and their flamboyant sounds remain an epitome of ridiculous hedonist fun.

All We Are are a trio who met at university in Liverpool but hail from Ireland, Norway and Brazil, and on their eponymous debut album they demonstrate a kind of aloof cool that could appeal to fans of London Grammar and The XX. Released by Domino, tracks such as Stone and the more upbeat Honey have an icy allure.

No Romeo is the belated debut album from Nottingham singer **Indiana** (AKA Lauren Henson), losing momentum with it being released by Epic several months after her synth pop hit Solo Dancing.

There is depth here, dark subjects explored on songs such as Play Dead and Blind As I Am, from an electronic artist closer in spirit to James Blake or PJ Harvey than typical dancefloor fodder. Seek this if you like Portishead or London Grammar.

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Nice night out with comics and music

COMEDY character Mrs Barbara Nice will appear in an all-female variety show at a Wolverhampton arts centre.

The show is being presented at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Dunkley Street, on March 5 as part of International Women's Week.

The character has been created by Janice Connolly who appeared as Holy Mary in Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights and Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere. Miss Connolly has also been in Coronation Street and is artistic director and founder member of Birmingham-based Women and Theatre.

The show at 7pm will feature four comedians and musical acts. Tickets are £8, call 01902 572090.

The mighty Quinn has three dates

SINGER and actor Ray Quinn will be singing in the Black Country and Staffordshire on his UK tour, starting at the Robin 2 in Bilston on March 4.

The Dare To Dream tour also visits the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock on April 23 and Lichfield's Garrick Theatre on June 20. The 26-year-old was runner up to Leona Lewis on The X-Factor in 2006 and won ITV's Dancing on Ice in 2009 and the final All Stars series.

Following his first platinum selling album Doing it My Way, Quinn is moving from swing to soul and ballads on new album Dare to Dream, released in April.

Jodie's return as Calamity Jane is now just a whip-crack-away

THE nation's Nancy, Jodie Prenger, is back on the boards in the West Midlands as a rootin' tootin' wild west heroine in the whip-cracking musical Calamity Jane.

The Blackpool girl with the big voice was catapulted into fame when the public voted her their choice to win 2008 BBC TV series I'd Do Anything, the TV talent search for a performer to play Nancy in the revival of Lionel Bart's musical Oliver! at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

She won critical acclaim in the role and went on to carve out a career on the stage, both in the West End and on tour, in such shows as Spamalot and One Man Two Guvnors.

She has also become a radio presenter, often deputising for her pal Paul O'Grady on BBC Radio 2.

The UK tour of Calamity Jane, which calls at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, gives Jodie the chance to take on a role famously created on film by her idol Doris Day in 1953.

She will be playing tom boy Jane opposite Tom Lister, best known for playing Carl King in TV's Emmerdale, in the Howard Keel role as Wild Bill Hickock.

One-nighter

The show's Oscar nominated score includes The Black Hills of Dakota, The Deadwood Stage (Whip-Crack-Away), Just Blew in from the Windy City and the Award winning song Secret Love.

Lindsay Posner's revival of 1940s Pulitzer prize winning Broadway comedy Harvey, which was made into a film starring James Stewart, continues at Birmingham Rep with James Dreyfuss as the man who believes he has a giant rabbit pal and Maureen Lipman as his worried sister.

Also at the Centenary Square venue, the main house hosts a special one-nighter on Sunday, A Summer In The South, readings from the works of Colette by Robert Powell and Siân Phillips.

An ageing Caribbean recluse who keeps bees and a teenage heiress clash in The

By Leon Burakowski

Honey Man by Tyrone Huggins, with the Birmingham playwright himself in the titular role, at The Rep's The Door venue from Monday to Saturday.

Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands, the choreographer's dream-like dance version of Tim Burton's popular fantasy, continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday. Then Birmingham Royal Ballet start their latest season at the Hippodrome with Moving Stateside, three American ballets, from February 18 to 21.

The sensational singing siblings who found fame on Britain's Got Talent, Richard & Adam, are at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday night. Their Valentine's special features a fellow singer from Wales, Sophie Evans. She found fame as the runner-up on BBC TV's Over The Rainbow in 2010, and went on to perform as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium, a role shared with winner Danielle Hope.

Strictly Come Dancing's Brendan Cole is at the Grand tonight (Thursday) with his Latin and ballroom extravaganza A Night To Remember. His former colleagues Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace star in Dance Til Dawn at the New Alexandra until Saturday, and Anton du Beke and Erin Boag present That's Entertainment at the Symphony Hall on Saturday.

Scene from The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Curious drama is a mystery

THE National Theatre's award-winning production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time will be staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next week as part of its first UK tour.

Running from Tuesday to Saturday, Simon Stephens' adaptation of Mark Haddon's best-selling novel received seven Olivier Awards, including Best New Play. It was seen by more than 200,000 in the West End.

The play tells the story of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old ill-equipped to deal with everyday life who is found beside his neighbour's dead dog, Wellington, which has been speared with a garden fork. Christopher is under suspicion, so uses his extraordinary brain and exceptional ability at maths to solve the mystery.

The Curious Incident will be explored again at Birmingham Hippodrome from May 26 to June 6.

Dunlop to play at Kitchen Garden

IF you are out in the Second City on Friday then critically acclaimed Blair Dunlop will be playing the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham.

Doors open 7.30pm with the show starting 8pm. Tickets are £12 but may incur a booking fee if bought through the website.

On the same night, February 13, the Woodman Folk Club, which meets at the Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford is playing host to Jinksy. Members £6 and non-members £1 more. Shows start 8.30pm.

Then on February 20 you can enjoy The Jigantics, the show starts at the same time and members pay £7, non-members £8.

Carrying legacy of The Dubliners

IF you are a fan of the legendary Dubliners then you will enjoy the group which is carrying on their legacy in Birmingham next week.

The Dublin Legends will be playing the ornate Town Hall, Victoria Square on February 15.

The show starts 7.30pm and tickets are £25 plus the usual transaction fee.

Singer Diana Jones will be playing at Up In Arms, Biddulph, Staffordshire on Wednesday, February 18.

Tickets are £12 and doors open 7.30 for 8pm start.

For anyone wanting more information or to reserve seats then call Eric Cox on 01782 514896.

CHOICE

Harry Hill

Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes (ITV, 6.30pm)

Harry Hill has never been the sort of funnyman to play it safe, but is his version of Stars in Their Eyes too surreal for mainstream tastes? Some might think so. This looks like the latest failure for the ex-doctor who scored a smash with TV Burp, but the poor reception of stage musical I Can't Sing and Harry Hill: The Movie have left some fans wondering if he will eventually return to Burp. Let's hope so, but for now, settle back and enjoy possibly the last ever edition of his karaoke show. Christina Aguilera (Christie Holland), Frankie Valli (Peter Sarsfield), Lady Gaga (Emma Wright), Paloma Faith (Sharon Williams) and last week's champion hope they have what it takes to win the SITE final.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v France (Kick-off 5.00pm).

6.55 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.15 The Voice UK. The blind auditions continue, although competition is fiercer than ever as the number of available places on each team reduces. Tonight's hopefuls include Beckenham duo the Rise, spoken-word poet Lara Lee and Damian Dalton Smith – the brother of actress Sheridan Smith. Will any of them impress Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora enough for them to turn in their seats? Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are backstage with the contestants' families.

8.35 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gaby Roslin.

9.25 Casualty. The team struggles to remain professional while treating a child serial killer and the mother of one of her victims. Connie suggests Dylan should apply for the consultant's vacancy.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the opening fifth-round matches, which included West Bromwich Albion v West Ham United at the Hawthorns and Blackburn Rovers v Stoke City at Ewood Park; National Lottery Update.

11.35 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Bournemouth v Huddersfield Town.

12.55 Film: Wake Wood. (2010) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: A Double Life. (1947) **8.10** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. (R) **8.40** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. (R) **9.10** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **10.00** Six Nations Rewind. **11.00** FA Cup Rewind: Fifth-Round Classics. **12.00** A Taste of Britain. **12.30** A Taste of Britain. **1.00** Shelley Winters: Talking Pictures. **1.30 Film:** The Treasure of Pancho Villa. (1955) Western, starring Rory Calhoun. **3.00 Film:** The Desperados. (1969) Western, starring Jack Palance. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** The Wonder of Animals. (R) **5.50** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R)

6.50 Flog It! The team visits Coventry Cathedral, where Will Axon and Michael Baggot value items including a collection of Clarice Cliff and a trio of watches. Presented by Paul Martin.

7.35 How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson. New series. The American science author explores the impact on the modern world of innovations in six technologies, beginning by tracing developments in cleaning and sanitation.

8.35 Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea leaves its mark on a visiting French general when the platoon repaints Lady Maltby's Rolls-Royce just in time for an official engagement. (R)

9.05 Simon Rattle: The Making of a Maestro. Documentary following the principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic over the course of a year as he prepares for a series of concerts, oratorios and operas with five different orchestras. The film also uses archive material to explore Rattle's career, including his days at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. There is also an interview in which he talks about his life and work and there are contributions by Anne-Sophie Mutter, Nicholas Kenyon and Peter Sellars.

10.05 The Dave Clark Five and Beyond: Glad All Over. Documentary looking at the impact and legacy of the London band on the American music scene in the 1960s, when they spearheaded the British invasion alongside the Beatles.

12.00 TOTP2: The 60s. (R) **12.30 Film:** Telstar: The Joe Meek Story. (2008) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** The Unforgettable Larry Grayson. (R) **2.05** The Chase. (R) **3.05** Doc Martin. (R) **4.05** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.00** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.10** ITV News; Weather. **5.25** You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! (R)

6.30 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. The finalists – Christina Aguilera, Frankie Valli, Lady Gaga, Paloma Faith and last week's champion – return to battle it out for the coveted trophy. Last in the series.

7.30 Planet's Got Talent. Featuring a US grandmother with a knack for hip-hop, a human Ken doll in Russia, a terrifying lesson in self-defence in Nigeria, and Dawn French's encounter with an obscene dancer.

8.05 Take Me Out. Club promoter Seeb, barman Ben, scuba-diving instructor Will and tailor Phil all hope to find their valentine among a line-up of 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness hosts.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by TV double act Ant and Dec, Jonathan Creek star Alan Davies, Hollywood actress Goldie Hawn and Grammy-winning musician Diana Krall, who also performs.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Cricket World Cup Highlights. Australia v England. Tom Skippings presents action from both teams' opening World Cup Pool A match, held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

11.35 Film: Balls of Fury. (2007) The FBI recruits a washed-up former ping-pong champion to infiltrate an underground tournament run by a criminal mastermind. Comedy, starring Dan Fogler and Christopher Walken.

1.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Child Genius. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Haydock Park and Wincanton. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **5.45** The Simpsons. (R)

6.10 The Simpsons. Grampa bumps into a newspaper columnist who becomes fascinated with his life and writes a series of stories about him, but Homer becomes suspicious of the journalist's motives. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Our Guy in India. Part two of two. Guy Martin visits Mumbai, where more skyscrapers are being built than anywhere else in the world, and clambers 833ft to the top of India's tallest building, the Imperial. Back on ground level, the daredevil visits a slum where a million people live in the space of one square mile, before experiencing a downpour on his Royal Enfield with the arrival of the monsoons. To avoid slow-moving and dangerous roads, he makes the final leg of his 1,000-mile journey by sea, on his way to compete in Rider Mania. (R)

8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. An icicle the size of a house causes a street to close in Canada as contractors attempt to remove it using chainsaws, and a mysterious green haze envelops Moscow.

9.00 Film: The Bourne Legacy. (2012) Premiere. The leaders of a secret government agency plan to eliminate several agents as part of a cover-up when they face having their dark secrets exposed. One of the assassins targeted is able to evade his fate and go on the run – but his escape is threatened by his dependence on drugs to boost his physical and mental capabilities. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner and Edward Norton.

11.40 Film: Sanctum. (2011) Thriller, starring Richard Roxburgh.

1.40 The Last Leg. (R) **2.40** Random Acts. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.50** Face the Clock. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Access. **10.40** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.00** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.00** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **3.00 Film:** Columbo: Double Shock. (1973) **4.30 Film:** Columbo Goes to the Guillotine. (1989) Detective drama, with Peter Falk.

6.20 5 News Weekend.

6.25 NCIS. The team tries to track down Harper Dearing following the bomb attack on the NCIS headquarters, which has left Ziva and Tony trapped in a lift. (R)

7.10 NCIS. Part one of two. Gibbs is injured in an explosion while conducting inquiries aboard a ship and lapses into a coma, during which he has flashbacks of his hidden past. (R)

8.05 NCIS. Gibbs emerges from his coma with amnesia, meaning he is unable to provide the team with vital intelligence regarding a terrorist plot. (R)

9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The death of popular high-school chemistry teacher Chet Messener in a fire appears at first to have been an accident, but the CSIs notice an accelerant was used at the scene and deduce they may have a murder on their hands. They discover Messener was until recently part of a secret coven at the school that had been dabbling in the arcane arts, and had also been selling steroids to the athletics team.

10.00 Law & Order. A dispute over a missing pair of trousers ends in murder – and the ensuing investigation leads Lupo and Green to a businessman working for a shady multinational corporation.

10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Stabler and Benson search for a teenage boy who disappeared after revealing he had become sexually attracted to his much younger stepbrother. Christopher Meloni stars. (R)

11.45 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. The rape of a nine-year-old girl is linked to the unsolved murder of a woman in Toronto three years previously when DNA evidence proves the assaults were by the same person. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10,000 BC. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Tropic Thunder (2008) **10.40** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **11.10** Family Guy **1.50** Crims **2.20** Uncle **2.50** South Side Story **3.20** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **3.50** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Amazon: Unnatural Histories **8.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Spiral **10.40** Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe **11.10** Horizon: Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth **12.10** Horizon: Swallowed by a Black Hole **1.10** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.50** Love Songs at the BBC: A Valentine's Day Special **2.50** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **3.50** Close

ITV2

11.05 The Cube: Celebrity Special **12.05** Educating Joey Essex: Supermodel Student **1.10 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **3.20** You've Been Framed! **4.50 Film:** She's the Man (2006) **7.00 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.05** Reality Bites **10.45** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **11.15** Ibiza Weekender **12.15 Film:** I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (2007) **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.00 A Touch of Frost **2.10 Film:** Holiday On the Buses (1973) **3.55** Wycliffe **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Touch of Frost **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

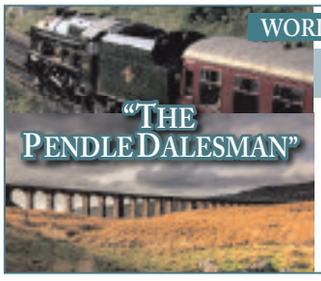
11.25 The Big Fish Off **12.25** Hogan's Heroes **1.30** Counting Cars **2.30** Storage Wars **2.55 Film:** Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **5.30** Storage Wars **6.20** Storage Wars: Texas **7.15 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00 Film:** Game of Death (2010) **11.05 Film:** The Keeper (2009) **1.10** River Monsters **2.05** Hogan's Heroes **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.35 Marry Me **12.00** New Girl **1.00** Melissa & Joey **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.30** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** Troy **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Run Fat Boy Run (2007) **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** How I Met Your Mother **12.40** 2 Broke Girls **1.40** Troy **2.40** The Cleveland Show **3.25** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 **4.10** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Charmed **5.15** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Bless This House (1972) **1.00** St Trinian's (2007) **3.00** Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969) **5.10** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **6.55** One Day (2011) **9.00** The Brave One (2007) **11.25** Betty Blue: The Director's Cut (1993) **3.05** Close



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CHOICE

Michael Gambon

The Casual Vacancy (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Drama adapted from the novel by JK Rowling, set in an English village whose seemingly idyllic facade hides a community at war. At the parish council meeting, chairman Howard Mollison introduces his plans to turn the community centre into a health spa, but he reckons without local solicitor Barry Fairbrother, who makes an impassioned speech about the importance of the centre to the impoverished people of the nearby estate. However, an unexpected turn of events leaves an empty seat on the council – leading to the biggest battle Pagford has ever seen. Michael Gambon, Rory Kinnear, Keeley Hawes and Julia McKenzie star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.00** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Match of the Day Live. Aston Villa v Leicester City (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v Wales (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News; Regional News.

6.00 Super Cute Animals. Wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan embarks on a global journey to find some of the world's cutest animals, aiming to understand why people find them so endearing and revealing the surprising science behind each different creature. He begins with the giant panda, whose unusually large head tells a story of millions of years of evolution and survival. Gordon also reveals how the fennec fox's ears are crucial to its survival, discovers the surprising secret behind a penguin's waddle and meets a five-year-old chimpanzee whose giggle reveals new information about man's evolution.

7.00 Countryfile. The pros and cons of the hunting ban in Gloucestershire, using pedal-power to exercise foxhounds and how motorway services on the M5 are being redefined for the 21st century.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A Christian Scientist couple refuse medicine for their newborn baby – a case that becomes more complicated when they are accused of harming their child.

9.00 The Casual Vacancy. New series. Drama based on the novel by JK Rowling, set in a seemingly idyllic village where the locals go to war over an empty seat on the parish council. Michael Gambon stars.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News.

10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the latest fifth-round matches, including Aston Villa v Leicester City at Villa Park and Arsenal v Middlesbrough at the Emirates Stadium.

11.20 The Apprentice USA. The celebrities are tasked with producing a live cooking demonstration for a steak company, as well as creating and naming a new meat variety pack.

12.45 Film: Stolen. (2010) **2.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** FA Cup Rewind: Fifth-Round Classics. **11.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.50** The Great Comic Relief Bake Off. (R) **1.50** Food & Drink; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.10** Open All Hours. (R) **3.40** To the Manor Born. (R) **4.10** Hi-de-Hi! (R) **4.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **5.15** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom. (R)

6.15 Ski Sunday. Highlights from the alpine skiing world championships from Vail/Beaver Creek in Colorado, including the men's giant slalom discipline.

7.00 The Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane. Catthorpe is a major interchange linking the M1 and A14 to the start of the M6, but now it's about to be redesigned at a cost of more than £190million to make it safer and less congested. Overseeing the work is construction manager Mark Sutton, who has to ensure the local residents are happy, as well as relocating a protected colony of great crested newts. Elsewhere, the Highways Agency and maintenance teams cope with the aftermath of an overturned lorry that spilt a cargo of milk on to the carriageway. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson compares BMW's M4 with its hybrid-powered i8 model and Richard Hammond pays tribute to the Land Rover. With guests Will Smith and Margot Robbie.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas pitched include an anti-piracy device for sailors, a children's bike horn, a brand of ice-cream with an east Asian flavour and a shopping app. Evan Davis presents.

10.00 Modern Times: Mayfair. Documentary about the characters who live and work in the area of central London, from an upmarket resident who dresses in Victorian clothing to a cabbie living in social housing.

11.00 Film: The Quiet American. (2002) A British journalist in 1950s Vietnam befriends an American aid worker, but suspects his new acquaintance is not all he appears to be. Drama, with Michael Caine and Brendan Fraser.

12.35 Film: The Night of the Generals. (1967) **2.55** Countryfile. (R) **3.50** Holby City. (R) **4.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.10** Mel & Sue's Best Bits. **3.10** Tipping Point. (R) **4.15 Film:** For Your Eyes Only. (1981) James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Get Your Act Together. Actress Nina Wadia (best known as EastEnders' Zainab) is mentored by mind reader Marc Paul, Emmerdale's Roxy Shahidi (Leyla) joins contortionist Pixie Le Knot, TV presenter Matt Johnson is coached by tap dancers Tap Corps, former Hi-de-Hi! star Ruth Madoc teams up with mime artist Les Bubb, and pop twins Jedward collaborate with Jump Rope UK for some double-dutch skipping. Host Stephen Mulhern follows the rehearsals leading up to the contestants' big performances as they compete for a place in next week's final.

8.15 All Star Family Fortunes. Retired Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba and newsreader Ranvir Singh team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Frank learns he may be unwittingly complicit in Kitty's attack, Harry realises his feelings for Nancy are stronger than he first thought, and Violette makes her move on Victor.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Perspectives: Sheila Hancock – The Brilliant Bronte Sisters. The actress explores the work of the 19th-century literary family, setting out to discover what inspired them to write such epic novels seemingly worlds apart from their own lives. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.10 The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 NFL: Rush Zone. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55 Film:** City of Ember. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Saoirse Ronan. **4.40** Channel 4 News. **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.05 A Place in the Sun. Sara Damergi helps Hull couple Peter and Julia Andrews find a holiday home in Fuerteventura on a budget of £60,000.

7.00 The Hotel. It's the end of the summer season and Mark prepares to bid farewell to the Cavendish, but he has more than work on his mind as his mum Stella recovers from a stroke in hospital. Hoping to secure his legacy at the hotel, the entertainments manager plans a lavish black-tie gala celebrating local family businesses, but with time running out, he admits to ex-colleague Alison that he's only sold 23 out of 70 seats.

8.00 The Auction House. New series. As the goods arrive for the week's sale at Lots Road Auctions, the valuers admire a pair of opulent dog beds, while a regular buyer helps a friend kit out her mansion.

9.00 Indian Summers. New series. Drama set in 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India. Ralph Whelan and the rest of the Indian Civil Service begin the annual move to Simla, while doyenne of the social scene Cynthia Coffin prepares the exclusively white British Club for the start of the summer season. The train to Simla is delayed, however, when a boy is found collapsed on the railway tracks, while a mysterious assassin makes his way to the city.

10.40 Gogglebox 2014. Highlights from the reality show, featuring the nation's favourite armchair critics commenting on popular TV programmes as they watch them.

12.15 Film: No Country for Old Men. (2007) **2.20** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **3.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.30** Face the Clock. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. **7.05** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.10** Olly the Little White Van. **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Wanda and the Alien. **8.40** Zack and Quack. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **11.25** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.25** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.25 Film:** How to Make an American Quilt. (1995) Drama, starring Winona Ryder. **3.35 Film:** Loch Ness. (1996) Family drama, starring Ted Danson. **5.30 Film:** Lady and the Tramp. (1955) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Barbara Luddy.

7.05 5 News Weekend.

7.10 Film: Memphis Belle. (1990) The crewmen of an American B-17 bomber prepare for their final flight before returning home to a hero's welcome. However, the mission – to launch a daylight raid on a supply factory in a heavily defended German city – threatens to be the most hazardous they have ever undertaken. Fact-based Second World War drama, with Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz, John Lithgow, Harry Connick Jr, Tate Donovan and Billy Zane. Edited for language and violence.

9.00 Film: War of the Worlds. (2005) A divorced father's rare weekend with his two estranged children descends into horror when alien war machines rise from beneath Earth and begin to systematically destroy every human being in their path – leaving the man with the dangerous task of getting his kids to safety. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, based on HG Wells' novel, with Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning, Justin Chatwin, Miranda Otto and Tim Robbins.

11.20 Film: Drag Me to Hell. (2009) A bank employee is cursed to suffer a series of misfortunes, and has to break the spell in three days before a demon takes her to Hell. Horror, with Alison Lohman.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10,000 BC. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **8.20 Film:** Meet the Parents (2000) **10.00** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **11.00** Family Guy **11.50** Uncle **12.20** American Dad! **12.40** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **1.40** Bangkok Airport **2.35** Crims **3.05** Bangkok Airport

BBC Four
7.00 The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic, London 2015 **9.40 Film:** Goodbye First Love (2011) **11.30** Wonders of the Solar System **12.30** Sounds of the 70s **1.00** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **2.00** Neil Sedaka Says: All You Need Is the Music **2.45** You've Got a Friend: The Carole King Story

ITV2
11.40 Take Me Out **12.55** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.40** You've Been Framed! **2.10** Scorpion **3.05 Film:** The Little Vampire (2000) **5.00 Film:** Space Jam (1996) **6.45 Film:** Miss Congeniality (2000) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30 Film:** Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **12.35 Film:** The Invention of Lying (2009) **2.20** Teleshopping

ITV3
12.05 Wycliffe **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Inspector Morse **7.00** Lewis **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.35 Film:** Parenthood (1989) **1.55** Countrywise Kitchen **2.20** Countrywise **3.10** On the Buses **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.15 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **2.25** Pawn Stars **5.10 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **7.00** The Big Fish Off **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Harry's South Pole Heroes **10.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **11.00 Film:** Horsemen of the Apocalypse (2009) **12.55** Hell on Wheels **1.40** River Monsters **2.30** Nitro Circus **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Revenge **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** The 100 **3.30** Rude(ish) Tube **5.00** Melissa & Joey **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Zoolander (2001) **9.45** The Inbetweeners **10.50** Rude Tube Shorts **11.05** Rude Tube **12.10** Taking New York **1.15** How I Met Your Mother **2.10** Rules of Engagement **3.00** The New Normal **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Ten Tall Men (1951) **1.00** Stardust (2007) **3.30** The Lost World (1960) **5.25** The Waterboy (1998) **7.05** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) **9.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **10.50** Unfaithful (2002) **1.15** Weekend (2011) **3.20** Close

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Act of Valor, Channel 5, 11pm
A team of elite Navy personnel is sent on a mission to rescue a kidnapped CIA agent. Their mission leads them to uncover a conspiracy between a Russian drug smuggler and a fanatical terrorist, and a plan to launch a devastating attack on the United States. Military adventure, starring Alex Veadov and Roselyn Sanchez. (2012)

TUESDAY
Carry On Girls, ITV, 11.40pm
The council of a seaside town is in dire need of a means to attract tourists to its resort, so announces a beauty contest. While the conniving organiser plots a series of publicity stunts, an outraged feminist group plans to sabotage the event. Comedy, starring Sid James, June Whitfield, Joan Sims, Barbara Windsor, Bernard Bresslaw and Peter Butterworth. (1973)

Erin Brockovich, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

WEDNESDAY
Erin Brockovich, Channel 5, 10pm
A single mother desperate for work pleads her way into a routine administrative job at a law firm. It is not long before she stumbles across mislaid documents about a case brought against a corporation for poisoning the residents of a small town by contaminating their water supply. Realising something is amiss, she begins her own investigation. Fact-based drama, with Julia Roberts in an Oscar-winning role. (2000)

THURSDAY
AI: Artificial Intelligence, BBC1, 11.45pm
A highly advanced robotic boy is created with one purpose - to love his owner as a parent. When he is rejected by his "mother', he is left to roam the bleak landscapes of a futuristic America with a fellow android, searching for a means of becoming a real boy in the hope of regaining her love. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi drama, starring Haley Joel Osment. (2001)

FRIDAY
2001: A Space Odyssey, BBC2, 11.05pm
Scientists detect a mysterious black monolith on the moon is transmitting a signal to Jupiter. A spacecraft is sent on a mission to investigate the origins of the strange object, but as they near their destination, the astronauts realise the computer controlling the ship is turning against them. Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi epic, with Keir Dullea. (1968)

PICK OF THE WEEK

The truth will finally be revealed this week

On February 19, 1985, an icon was born. At 7pm, viewers heard Simon May and Leslie Osbourne's unforgettable theme for the first time before the opening scene – involving the discovery of pensioner Reg Cox's corpse by Dirty Den Watts and his pals.

Yes, EastEnders burst onto the TV landscape that night and has been a mainstay ever since, grabbing the attention with numerous controversial, gritty and enthralling headlines.

Who can ever forget Den handing wife Angie divorce papers on Christmas Day 1986, watched by over 30 million people? Or Kat announcing that she's Zoe's mother? Or even Frank turning up naked on Pat's doorstep? Now there's an image that can't be erased from the memory…

The latest massive storyline has involved the murder of Lucy Beale, which took place on Good Friday last year.

After almost 12 months of wondering whodunit, we should find out the truth in tonight's two episodes and tomorrow's much-publicised live edition – but executive producer Dominic Treadwell-Collins claims there's even more excitement to come.

"As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we have set ourselves an enormous challenge – a week of live scenes, a form-breaking flashback, a live episode, story twists that will leave a lump in the throat and a few moments that will elicit genuine gasps from our audience."

The tension will have been building across the week, beginning on Tuesday with Barbara Windsor's return as battleaxe Peggy Mitchell. While much of Tuesday to Thursday's episodes have been pre-shot, live scenes will also be included on each night, just to spice things up a little – and no doubt keep the actors on their toes.

Tuesday will have been dominated by the fate of Ronnie Mitchell, and Wednesday by Ian and Jane's wedding, but it's Thursday and Friday that fans are most interested in.

Nick Cotton – yes, Nasty Nick, one of the soap's original characters – is about to meet his maker, Kim goes into labour and secrets about the Mitchell clan come to light before Lucy's death takes centre stage once more.

Thursday's second episode sees Hetti Bywater return to the role in flashback, as the night of her murder is relived. The whole of Friday's edition will then be broadcast live, and following various revelations, it's fair to say that life in Albert Square may never be the same again.

"Everyone is really buzzing and excited about it," says actor Shane Richie of the live aspects of the anniversary. "We can't wait for it to come! You know it's a really big team effort and everyone's really excited about it. Obviously some have got more to do than others but the fact that we're involved in it is a blessing."

Will viewers think all the effort has been worthwhile once the week is over? Let's hope so – in fact, let's hope we're all tuning in again in another 30 years time as Walford turns 60, when we may be looking back at memorable moments that include the unveiling of Lucy Beale's killer.

Hetti Bywater stars as Lucy in EastEnders, Thursday, BBC1, 9.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Match of the Day Live
BBC1, 7.30pm
Preston North End v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the concluding FA Cup fifth-round tie at Deepdale, as the League One hosts look to cause an upset. United have been drawn away from home to lower-league opposition in all three of their ties so far, and needed a replay to get past Cambridge United in round four, as did Preston, as they won 3-1 at Sheffield United. The sixth-round draw follows the match. Presented by Gary Lineker.

UKIP: The First 100 Days
Channel 4, 9pm
'What if' is one of the greatest, and occasionally most chilling premises for any drama, as Twilight Zone and Black Mirror have proved over the years. Occasionally Channel 4 also make one-off political dramas such as The Trial of Tony Blair, and this docu-drama from the producers of excellent Maisie Williams drama Cyberbully. It's set in a future where UKIP have won a shock victory in the 2015 general election, and Nigel Farage is Britain's Prime Minister. It follows the work of a newly elected MP, Deepa Kaur, UKIP's only female Asian MP enduring frontline politics during her first 100 days in office.

TUESDAY
THE GIFT
BBC1, 9pm
Matt Baker meets 51-year-old Jon Howe, who as a boy was the school bully. He is ashamed of the torment he dealt out to one boy in particular – Simon Pierce – and now wants to find his former classmate to apologise. But will Simon even want to see him, let alone forgive him? Mel Giedroyc hears from 46-year-old Lisa Whaymand, who was diagnosed with leukaemia but survived thanks to a bone-marrow transplant. Now she would like to meet her donor – despite their identities being kept anonymous.

WEDNESDAY
WOLF HALL
BBC2, 9pm
The Act of Supremacy has declared Henry the supreme head of the church in England, but Holy Roman emperor Charles V and his ambassador Eustache Chapuys refuse to recognise the new title or the monarch's divorce and subsequent marriage. With Anne pregnant and away from court, Henry begins to take more notice of Jane Seymour, whose family enlist Cromwell's help in their dealings with the king – much to Anne's displeasure. Historical drama, starring Mark Rylance.

Bear Grylls: Mission Survive, Friday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
CUCUMBER
Channel 4, 9pm
It may lack the sparkle and originality of his groundbreaking Queer as Folk, but Cucumber has nevertheless won over a new generation of fans and kept Russell T Davies' existing supporters more than happy. It's also introduced the world to an intriguing central character in Henry Best, the middle-aged insurance expert who has put his previously happy relationship with long-standing partner Lance on the line during a moment of madness. This week, his lies seem destined to catch up with him, potentially putting him on a collision course with everyone he loves.

FRIDAY
THE MUSKETEERS
BBC1, 9pm
King Louis accepts an invitation to view the solar eclipse at the castle observatory of renowned astronomer Marmion, so Rochefort and a trio of Musketeers escort the courtiers. However, just as the sun is blocked out by the moon, a shocking turn of events leaves the royal party fearing for their lives. Just who is this Marmion and what is his game? Back at the garrison, Athos and Treville remain unaware of the danger faced by the king and their friends – until help arrives from an unexpected source. Tom Burke, Santiago Cabrera and Howard Charles star.

Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
ITV, 9pm
New series. Eight celebrities embark on a 12-day expedition in the rainforest of Costa Rica, where they must learn to navigate difficult terrain, build shelter, make fire and eat the food that nature provides. From abseiling down ferocious waterfalls to crossing perilous rapids, the stars face a range of challenges and Bear himself eliminates one of them each week, leaving three in the final. Kelly Holmes, Mike Tindall, Emilia and Laurence Fox, Max George, Jamelia, Vogue Williams and Tom Rosenthal make up the team.

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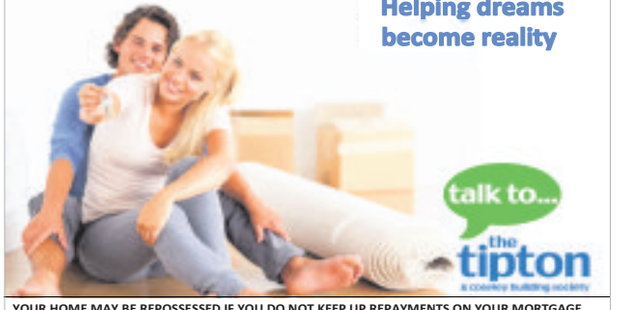

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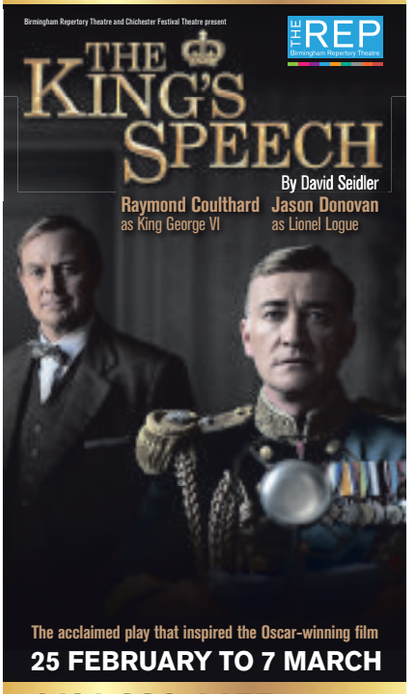

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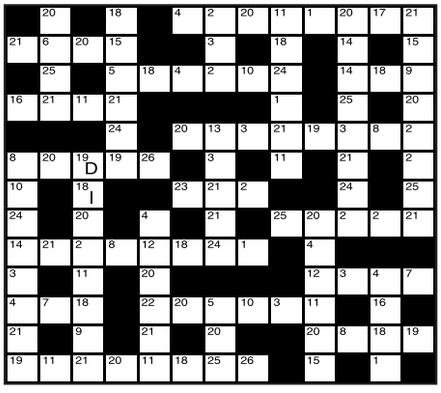
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18 I
6	19 D
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	X	C	U	J	O	A	B	G	W	V	Q	P
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	T	D	E	L	I	Y	F	M	K	R	H	N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

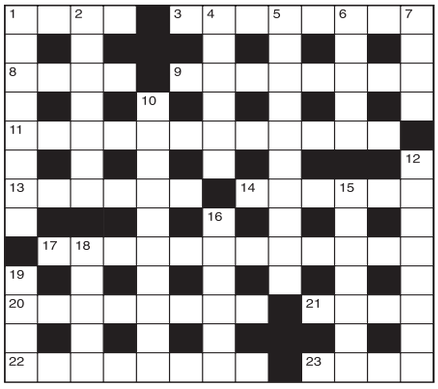
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1 & 3Ac. He's most likely to succeed (4-8)
3. See 1 Across
8. How many removed from the Vatican in excommunication? (4)
9. By which Parliament votes for a large military unit (8)
11. Honesty is the necessary quality of a good ruler (12)
13. Interfere with the decoration, by the sound of it (6)
14. Make an attack in some of the fiercest R.A.F. expeditions (6)
17. Almost synonymous with evening-dress? (5-7)
20. Doing what Ivy does (8)
21. One in the vessel is a murderer (4)
22. This indicates the way to finish off secretarial correspondence (8)
23. Endlessly give one's attention to the boss (4)

Down

1. Fine looking vehicle, we hear (8)
2. Eroding badly, but went unheeded (7)
4. An unfortunate state in which to make a solemn promise (6)
5. A falsehood by a whole group of people leads to estrangement (10)
6. Ways out for ten in different site (5)
7. Small container required before the end of the day (4)
10. What the dentist acting as a locum will do (4,3,3)
12. Dear ones thought things out differently (8)
15. What strange skill will get across! (7)
16. They make it possible to track down South American money! (6)
18. Giving confectionery a topping finish (5)
19. Scripture book put back in the oldest cathedral (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Snug (4)
3. Motion (8)
8. Approaching (4)
9. Each person (8)
11. Decrease in affection (12)
13. Blow (6)
14. Essential commodity (6)
17. Unconcern (12)
20. Bills (8)
21. Wise men (4)
22. Banish (8)
23. Remain (4)

Down

1. Summarise (8)
2. Smash (7)
4. Plunder (6)
5. Imperious (10)
6. Contempt (5)
7. A vegetable (4)
10. Defamation (10)
12. Rashness (8)
15. Locket (7)
16. Influence (6)
18. New (5)
19. Jetty (4)

Sudoku

7				6			8	2
		3		8		1	5	7
	8		7					
6			3				2	
8				2	7			6
	5		6		4			3
	2						7	
1	9	8		7		6		
4				9				5

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	5	7	6	3	2	8	1
8	6	2	9	4	1	7	3	5
7	3	1	5	2	8	6	9	4
6	2	3	8	7	5	1	4	9
1	7	4	3	9	6	5	2	8
9	5	8	2	1	4	3	6	7
2	8	7	1	3	9	4	5	6
5	1	6	4	8	2	9	7	3
3	4	9	6	5	7	8	1	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Left-handers; 9 Hammers; 10 Anvil; 11 Attic; 12 Sten-gun; 13 Roamed; 15 Sledge; 18 Stopper; 20 Pleat; 22 Ashes; 23 Stand-in; 24 Freeholders. Down: 2 Emmet; 3 Treacle; 4 Assist; 5 Drake; 6 Ravaged; 7 Theatre seat; 8 Clandestine; 14 Another; 16 Lapland; 17 Presto; 19 Paste; 21 Elder. QUICK - Across: 1 Contraction; 9 Eatable; 10 Never; 11 Erode; 12 Certain; 13 Rescue; 15 Adhere; 18 Typical; 20 Urban; 22 Odour; 23 Genesis; 24 Remorseless. Down: 2 Outdo; 3 Tableau; 4 Agency; 5 Tenor; 6 Obviate; 7 Penetration; 8 Drunkenness; 14 Suppose; 16 Diurnal; 17 Aligns; 19 Cargo; 21 Basis.

Quiz

1. Who chaired the arms-to-Iraq inquiry?
2. What is recorded using a sphygmomanometer?
3. Who painted the Rokeby Venus?
4. Into which river do the Great Lakes drain?
5. In which county was the churchyard of Thomas Gray's famous Elegy?
6. In which country is the Great Bear Lake?
7. For which element is Ba the symbol?
8. Who was the commander of Apollo 11?
9. Of which country was Yitzhak Rabin prime minister?
10. Who wrote Les Fleurs du mal?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Rita Hayworth; 2 Navarre; 3 Australian; 4 Longchamp; 5 Aaron; 6 Quakers; 7 St Luke; 8 Meerschaum; 9 Kentucky; 10 Gilbert and George.

Niner: PHILANDER

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

12385 gives a large bird,
439 gives a fish,
876 gives another fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Refurbished farmhouse retains original features

WESTVIEW Farmhouse in Clive Road, Pattingham, near Wolverhampton, is an attractive Grade II listed Georgian residence.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £599,950.

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School Lane Hagley DY9 9LD
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GUIDE PRICE £125,000 PLUS
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School Lane Hagley DY9 9LD
A semi detached cottage, living room, kitchen, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, garden. Vacant possession upon completion. Energy Rating E
GUIDE PRICE £125,000 PLUS
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Bullus Road Stourport DY13 9DG
A spacious and extended 2/3 bedroom 2-bathroom semi detached house requiring refurbishment. Substantial modern side extension and good sized south facing rear gardens. Living room, separate dining room or ground floor bedroom 3, bathroom, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, further first floor bathroom, off road parking. Vacant possession upon completion. Energy Rating E
GUIDE PRICE £85,000- £105,000
CONTACT STOURPORT OFFICE: 01299 822060

Fort Mahon Place Bewdley DY12 2PB
A substantial and traditionally built two double bedroom detached bungalow. Hall. Bathroom. Recently refitted Kitchen. Living Room. Integral Garage. Driveway plus fore and rear gardens. Double glazed. Gas to radiator central heating. Energy Rating E
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Redstone Lane Stourport DY13 0JQ
A 3-bedroom link semi detached house requiring up-grading and re-fitting. Recessed porch, reception hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, south facing rear gardens, immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion. Energy Rating D
GUIDE PRICE £100,000- £120,000
CONTACT STOURPORT OFFICE: 01299 822060

Shrawley Avenue K'minster DY11 7NP
A 3-bedroom semi detached "Wates" style pre-fabricated re-inforced concrete (PRC) house built around 1949 and having a large plot on the fringe of the Rifle Range Estate in Kidderminster. Reception hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, vacant possession upon completion. Energy Rating D
GUIDE PRICE £60,000- £70,000
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Tanwood Lane Chaddesley Corbett DY10 4NT
A detached country cottage surrounded by open countryside and standing on a good level plot approaching 1.3 acres or thereabouts. The property is set within a particularly nice rural but not isolated location between Chaddesley Corbett and Belbroughton. A very rare opportunity within this incredibly sought after area. Vacant possession upon completion Energy Rating G
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Hartlebury Road Stourport DY13 9NL
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THERE is no chain for this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Holly Road, Oldbury, on sale through Braithwaites at £159,950.

In need of modernisation and having gas central heating and majority double glazing, it has a side garden with space for an extension subject to permission. There is a lounge/dining area with a front bay window and sliding patio doors out to the rear garden, a kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom with separate WC, front and rear gardens, garage and drive. Contact Braithwaites on 0121 4211180 or visit www.braithwaites-estate-agents.co.uk

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FOR SALE £117,500
End terrace property comprising of Entrance Hall with original tiled floor, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Loft Room, Large Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing (where specified), Gas Central Heating, Small Frontage, Rear garden.

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KINGSWINFORD

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, February 12, 2015

Safety first on motorways

By James Parker

Drivers need to put safety first on motorway journeys says breakdown cover specialist GEM Motoring Assist.

GEM chief executive David Williams MBE offered some reassurance for drivers: "Motorways may be the fastest roads we use, but they are statistically also the safest; and there are fewer collisions on motorways than on other roads," he said.

"However, the high speeds used on motorways mean that when there is a crash, it is likely to be more serious.

"That's why on average around one in 50 motorway collisions is fatal, compared with one in 70 on all other roads."

The risks are greatest on motorways in the following situations:

- When there is insufficient time and space between vehicles travelling at high speed.
- When drivers are avoidably distracted – often by using a mobile phone, re-setting the satnav or attempting to eat and drink at the wheel.
- As a result of poor lane discipline – for example, driving in the middle lane when the left hand lane is empty, or from changing lanes without proper observations or signalling.
- When traffic is heavy and motorway speeds are constantly varying, largely due to the frustration experienced when traffic is light and there is little or nothing to engage the attention of a driver on a long journey.

It's at these times that alertness can drop and concentration can dip, making it easy to miss a developing hazard.

- Around junctions, when drivers are leaving or joining the motorway. Too often drivers make last-minute decisions, and end up cutting across lanes of traffic to get off the motorway or into the correct lane if the carriageway is about to split. Busy urban stretches of motorway are particularly risky, as there are often several junctions and intersections across short distances.

David Williams added: "By acknowledging these risks, you are taking a big step toward making a motorway journey safer."

GEM has compiled 10 tips for safer motorway driving:

1. Plan your journey so you know when to join and leave the motorway.

You're far less likely to be taken by surprise when it comes to choosing the correct lane at junctions and intersections.

2. Choose a safe speed and use the left hand lane unless overtaking.

3. Check your following distance by the 'two second rule'.

Watch the vehicle in front go past a signpost, under a bridge or past some other reference point.

4. Then speak out: "Only a fool breaks the two second rule." If you pass the same point before you have finished the sentence, then you are too close.

5. Double your following distance in wet weather.

6. Scan the road a long way ahead so that you have early sight of developing hazards.

7. Make regular mirror checks. If you observe a fast-approaching vehicle, then take steps to move out of its way.

GEM has compiled 10 tips for safer motorway driving.

8. Before changing lanes, check your mirrors and blind spots, and indicate your intention to move either left or right. Only commence the manoeuvre when you know you can complete it safely.

9. Avoid any sort of distraction. No mobile phone, no interfering with stereo or satnav, no eating or drinking.

Give 100 percent of your attention to driving.

10, If you miss your motorway exit, don't make last-minute risky manoeuvres to leave the motorway.

Continue to the next junction and turn around, or follow the revised satnav instructions.

Motoring

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At the heart of the community

Vauxhall retailer, Stourbridge Motor House, has been part of a family run business for over 60 years, and prides itself on offering high-quality, convenient care for its customers.

The retailer's extensive Vauxhall fleet of new and used vehicles, as well as an outstanding aftersales service ensures loyal customers keep coming back time and time again. Additionally, Stourbridge Motor House offers excellent value-for-money, and customers can take advantage of a range savings available across the Vauxhall range.

The service team ensures Vauxhall vehicles are running smoothly and efficiently so that customers are worry-free when it comes to purchasing a new car. With competitive service rates, the team can help you take out a service plan to spread your costs over the year for as little as £12.99 a month.

Ian Holdsworth, Sales Manager at Stourbridge Motor House, comments: "The team at Stourbridge Motor House strive to offer the best in customer care so each and every motorist in the area is satisfied during both the sales process and after.

"With a wide range of savings and offers available and our experienced sales team on hand to answer any and all of your questions, we're confident we can help you to find the vehicle to suit your requirements at a payment you can afford."

Customers can also benefit from an on hand, fully trained Vauxhall Motability team, including specialists Paul Jones and Simon Jones, with years of expertise to confidently advise buyers in choosing a car that best suits their needs, along with a variety of offers available, including on the new Corsa.

The new Corsa is available in nine trim levels; Life, Sting and Sting R, Design, SRi, Excite, SE, SRi VX Line and Limited Edition, and those eligible for the Motability scheme can use part, or all, of their disability allowance to lease the new Corsa*, which is available with nil advanced payment.

Ian continues: "We are very proud to be able to offer motorists with disabilities the chance to drive away in a Vauxhall vehicle that fully meets their mobility needs.

"We work tirelessly to demonstrate our continued commitment to Motability and offer competitive pricing throughout, including increasing the number of models available at nil ad-

Is it time to make the switch?

Millions of drivers could be missing out on savings of around £860 per year in fuel and tax because myths still exist about running electric and plug-in hybrid cars.

The findings are the result of new research released today by Go Ultra Low, a joint initiative by the Government and the UK automotive industry.

According to the research, around 11.5 million motorists could benefit from the lowest cost, tax-free motoring by switching to pure electric vehicles, because in a typical year they don't drive further than 80 miles in a single trip.

Millions more could benefit from other ULEVs, which can travel between 150 and 700 miles between charges thanks to range-boosting petrol and diesel assistance.

The Go Ultra Low research shows that 70 percent of car owners are planning to change their car within the next four years, while three in ten say they have considered purchasing a ULEV. Two thirds of motorists under the age of 24 have considered a ULEV compared to just a quarter of drivers over 55.

The survey also reveals that the majority of motorists still don't fully understand how electrically-powered vehicles work and believe outdated myths across a number of topics, from range and charging to cost and practicality.

The survey discovered that a quarter of motorists misunderstand the range capabilities of ULEVs, with 16 percent believing electric vehicles are unable to travel 50 miles without recharging.

Yet the research also shows that more than a third of drivers said the furthest they drove in a single journey during 2014 was 80 miles or less.

With pure-electric vehicles able to travel up to 100 miles on a single charge and other plug-in ULEVs boasting up to 700 miles' range, the survey's authors claim electrically-powered cars are a viable, low-cost option for millions of motorists.

Go Ultra Low is a campaign to help motorists understand the benefits, cost savings and capabilities of the raft of new ultra-low emission vehicles on the market.

The collaborative campaign is the first of its kind, bringing together the Department for Transport, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, SMMT and a consortium of leading car manufacturers: Audi, BMW, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Renault, Toyota, and Volkswagen.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO_2 emissions: 373 - 85g/km.#

#Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Vehicles shown for illustrative purposes only, and may be fitted with optional equipment. Brilliant paint, metallic or pearlescent two-coat paint and parking distance sensors included with each lease. Tri-coat premium paint available at extra cost. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Offer valid 1 January – 31 March 2015. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate Mobility Component of the Personal Independence Payment, the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement or the Armed Forces Independence Payment which will be taken in lieu of the four weekly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. All information correct at time of going to press.

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown Alto SZ available from £5,999 (Metallic paint available at £399). *VAT free offer on Alto SZ: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ).†Manual transmission only. VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. ‡Manual transmission only.

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holidays

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what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE AND COLLECTABLES FAIR Coven Memorial Hall, WV9 5DL. Sunday 15 Feb, 9-3. Karen. 01384 277373 / 07938 123040.

3 Home & Services

furniture

CREAM LEATHER suite, 3 seater settee, chair and large footstool, £250 ono. 01902 884524.

DROP LEAF table with 4 chairs, good condition £70 ono. 01902 654419.

DROP LEAF table with 4 chairs which fold and fit into table, good condition £60 ono. 01902 654419.

in your garden

Top Soil, Building Sand
Paving/Concrete Sand
Decorative Gravels
Delivered Bagged or Loose
01902 893226

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BOX OF CRAFT GOODIES including Cuttlebug, Grand Calibur, Dies, rubber stamps etc £150 ono. 01902 498366.

items wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

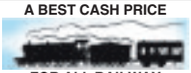
WANTED
COMICS & CIGARETTE CARDS
Plus bubblegum and football cards such as A&BC, Barratt etc. Also comics and annuals required. Beano, Dandy, Marvel and other interesting old comics. Pre 1970 please. Will collect. Good cash prices paid for full collections.
Text message to 07938 188610 or call. 01952 253266

WANTED OLD SILVER COINS, Single or Several. Victoria Edward, George. Will collect. Best cash paid. Call John 07973 211468.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

A BEST CASH PRICE



FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • All silver • Chinese items • Old Ivory. • Military items
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01922 495066 or 07971 783206

GREAT HIGHWAY
MAGAZINE FROM 1920S WANTED
The Great Highway - any number of copies and in any condition by serious private collector. High price paid.
Please contact Steve on 023 80879361.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

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specialists at your service

aerials

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Same Day Service
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01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

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A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
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www.ab-blinds.co.uk

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Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

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CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07899 635852.

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01384 626578 / 07590 644555

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

woodburners and stoves

WOODBURNING / MULTIFUEL Stoves. Flues, installation. Free surveys. Stourbridge 01384 390183. severnvalleystoves.com

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

BSA SUPER SPORT 177 Calibre, Hawke 3.9 50 scope, silencer, recent service, excellent condition £200. 07821 823308.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEADLE PUPS boys and girls, first vaccinations, health checked, £350. 07972 604503.

CAVALIER KING Charles pups, first vaccinations, health checked, £375. 07972 604503.

FOUR YEAR old, Old Time Pedigree Bull Dog bitch, with papers, white with black patch above eye, very good with children, outdoor dog, moving away, want her to go to a good home. £450 ono. Please call 07582 151473.

MIXED RABBITS American Rex and Lion Heads. Bucks £15. Doe's. £20. 07528 951852.

QUALITY Standard Poodle puppies available now, Black, white, possibly 1 silver, boys £400, girls £450. Very sociable. Vet checked and inoculated. Good with other dogs. Grooming advice available. Mother lives with us. 07788 713882. 01902 845245.

SHIH-TZU PUPPIES FOR SALE. Vet checked, vaccinated. Ready to go. £400 each. Call 01902 593134.

WANTED African Greys, anything considered. 07881 811774.

SPECIAL HOMES WANTED
LIZZY 2 yr border x terrier
SADA 4 boy jack russell white and brown
BUSTER 7 months old jack russell x staffy,
ROXY 4 year old pug x jack russell girl
JASPER 7 month old german shep cross
JIP 10 year old gentle old border collie
BOSS 5 year old lab cross staffie
ADELE 7 year old white girl staffie
MEG 17 month border collie
MONTY Shaggy patterdale X
01588 676106.
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

SPONSERS WANTED FOR HOLLY AND NED
Are mature Border Collie x Kelpies, rescued several weeks ago from a farm where they had no human contact, no name and were in a dark shed, however these two lovely dogs are now in our care but will take a long time to rehome. Our funding is at all time low so if anyone would like to sponser for the care of these lovely dogs we would be grateful. Sponsers can visit and bring treats. **Cheques payable to 'Animal Samaritans', The Round House, Horderely, Craven Arms, SY7 8HT. 01588 676106**

WEST HIGHLAND TERRIER
White, 3 years old, male, fully vaccinated, wormed microchipped, neutered.
Pet only, not for breeding
Genuine reason for sale.
£150.
01543 899578. 07789 989413.

YORKSHIRE TERRIER Pups, 1 male, £400, 1 bitch, £450, full pedigree, parents can be seen, 01902 411018 or 07578 275795.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

plant, machinery & tools

DROP SIDES to fit Ivor Williams 14ft Trailer. 07939 945126. 01785 780275.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY and Taxation services for Small Businesses. Fixed fees. Call 01902 343200

6 Property

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WILL PAY 15K MORE
Complete within 7 days
Ring Paul, 07870 341089

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FORGET THE REST We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

properties wanted

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WE PAY 100% OF PURCHASE PRICE EVERY TIME

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- We are a family run local business.
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- Buying properties for over 30 years.
- No fees - Free solicitors

We also buy Commercial & Industrial, Shops, factories, land, building plots....*even your garden!*

text GOAL to 88802 and we will call you back now.

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www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk

*Subject to terms ** PI Group

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we can buy your house in

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- Any Condition
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wolverhampton properties 2 days

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looking for property in ANY CONDITION

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for a fast cash offer

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0800 633 5288

STOP WE PAY MORE

- 100% every time*
- Free Solicitors No Fees*
- Any Property, Any Condition*

*Subject to terms

SOLD

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0121 308 7786
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- Repossessions stopped
- Deceased estates

*Subject to terms

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the name you can trust

Harrison Fowler

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- FREE Solicitors
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24 hours

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I pay 100% of purchase price

FOR THE BEST PRICE ON YOUR HOME

• Guaranteed offer* • Any condition • Free solicitors • No fees*

Call 0800 783 2822 or 01384 226086 24 hrs GUARANTEED

*Terms apply

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of trying to sell your house
Call the House Doctor
Now for the best price
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Solves all your problems

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SOLD

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accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

COSELEY large 1-bed self contained flat, parking. £360 exclusive. 07970 174138.

LARGE ONE BED modern flat, unfurnished, opposite Russells Hall Hospital. £380pcm. 07973 844617.

ONE BED flat, Pennfield, W-ton, unfurnished, double glazing, DSS ok. Call or text 07754 076795.

RECENTLY REFURBISHED 1 and 2 bed flats, Netherton, close to Merry Hill, DSS welcome. Call 01562 885668 or 07831 200692.

ROOMS TO LET Brierley Hill/Pensnett area, bills included from £75 pw. 07915 610069.

SMART ROOMS in shared house in Netherton. Single £85, Double £95pw inc bills. No DSS. Small dep. 01384 401747 / 07940 116130.

THREE BED Semi, Cul-de-sac. Parkfields, DG, CH, new kitchen. 07951 985118.

bungalows

TENBY WALES
(15 minutes drive)

Bungalow, Timber frame, CH, DG, large bay windows, door arches, over 50's only,

£85,000.
As new
07816 292546.
www.willowparkhomes.co.uk

TWO BUNGALOWS SEMI DETACHED KIDDERMINSTER

Both two bedroom.
In need of modernisation.
Substantial plot of land.
Four car workshop at rear.
Sold as one unit.
£295,000.

Telephone

01562 822266
(after 7pm).

flats for sale

TETTENHALL AREA

WV6 8QL

Ground floor, 2-bed flat, retirement estate, fitted kitchen and bedroom, redecorated, site managed and maintained, parking and close to village, over 55's only.

Offers £110,000 ono.

07531 557365 after 6pm.

houses for sale

LLANGYNIW, WELSHPOOL

Superb Chalet Bungalow. 3 beds. Fully residential. Site fees paid until Sept 2015. Lovely location. Must see to appreciate.

£75,000 ono.

01772 683438.

WOLVERHAMPTON

Stowheath Lane, 3 bed semi, with garage and sun lounge, DG, GCH, good transport links, close to schools, shops and hospital.

£130,000.

01902 632736.

WOLVERHAMPTON SPACIOUS 3 BED

End terrace, entrance hall, two reception, kitchen and bathroom. Large brick built garage / workshop.

A1 planning consent

£80,000 ono

Tel: 01902 333020

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

mobile homes

ONE BEDROOM MOBILE HOME, in Coven, DG, GCH, private site, corner plot, £60,000 ono. Telephone 01902 791415.

7 Jobs

building & construction

PAINTERS & DECORATORS. Time served tradespeople. Direct or sub-contract. Long term work. Call 01562 751197 / 07836 557894.

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www.hgvdrivertraining.co.uk

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warehouse & distribution

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

CITROEN C4 VTR+ HDi 1.6, 59 plate, silver, 76,000 miles, 11 months MoT, fsh, cruise control, air con, £3,750. 07796 274636.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£19.50 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL 01902 317878

HONDA JAZZ 1.4, 2010, red, semi automatic, 15,400 miles, 12 months MoT, £5,500. 07814 499613.

MAZDA 6 SAKATA
2005. 49,000 miles. Gold. FSH. Full MoT. One owner from new. CD player.
£2,750.
07973 667965.

MERCEDES A180 CDi, SE, diesel Classic, silver, 06, very good condition, MoT June, 63k, £3,750 ono. 01562 700880. 07515 022389.

NISSAN MICRA SPORT
2006, 53,700 miles, 1.6, 44mpg, fully loaded, silver,MOT, immaculate car.
£2,295
07725 403038

RENAULT GRANDE Espace, 85k miles, full MoT, one owner from new, X reg, immaculate, £2,050. 07975 839914. 01902 689400.

RENAULT SCENIC 1500cc Diesel, 2007, 57k, 1 owner, tow bar fitted, full MoT. £2,995. 07850 233858.

SKODA OCTAVIA ESTATE 2008, 15,000 miles, pale blue, MoT, £5,200. 01384 263821.

TOYOTA HI-LUX SURF, SSR G, 3.0 diesel, 1977, good condition, silver, nudge bar, spots, MoT, £2,250 to sell. 01299 832156/07742 835429

TOYOTA YARIS 5dr, 12 plate, 1.3, very good condition, 9,017 miles, deep aqua, £7,700. 07954 181046.

FOR A QUICK SALE

VW GOLF 1.4 TSi

2010, only 25,000 miles, MoT'd, champagne colour, service history, EW, CL, CD player, Bluetooth connection, slight scuff to back needs attention.

£8,250. o.n.o.

07507 677593.

VW POLO 1.2E
59 reg, black, Lady owner, 24,000 miles, SH, new tyres, MoT Sept, excellent condition in/out.
£4,250 ono.
01384 278930.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN XSARA Picasso, 2.0 HDi Exclusive, silver, 115k, MoT, FSH, Cam belt, new battery,glow plugs, all receipts. £1,100. 01902 338549.

FORD KA 03 plate, used daily, many new parts, needs TLC, MoT till November, £350 ono. 07931 206261.

MERCEDES A CLASS 140 04 reg, Petrol, over 58k, CD, Air-con. Good condition, slight fault. Hence price £775. 07515 370995.

FORD KA
2000, 65,000 miles, red, new exhaust. MoT till August, 1299cc.
£250.
07532 115881.

NISSAN MICRA 1998,Automatic, 11 mths MoT, 99k, import so has AC, EM, EW front/back, 1000cc, £695 ono. 07572 236800/01902 495364

NISSAN TERRANO 4 x 4
2.7 diesel, 2001, autobox, 7 seater, 106,000 miles, just serviced, MoT until Jan 2016, 2 owners from new,
£1,095 ono.
SOLD

SAAB 93SE CONVERTIBLE, 1999, in family since 2003, vast history, private plate worth £250, needs MoT hence £550. 07765 607796.

SKODA FABIA 1.2, 2003 model, 47,000 miles, MoT 2015. £900. 01902 564264 after 3pm.

SUZUKI ALTO GL, 03 reg, black, 41,106 miles, MoT July £30 a year tax, new parts fitted, £850 ono. Telephone 07757 785714.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 2000, MoT, 5Dr, CL, stereo, SR, good condition, ideal first car, excellent runner, £675 o.n.o. 07973 472238.

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 2004, 87K, MOT Dec 2015. Recent timing belt. Reliable. Good condition. £1,200 ono. 07814 578997

VAUXHALL OMEGA, 2001, 62,600 miles, gold, abs, air con, MoT, auto, alloys, CD, gearbox fault. £400 ono. 07931 761846.

VW PASSAT 1.9TDi HI LINE, 04 reg, black, 110k, clean and reliable, MoT, £1,295. Telephone 07754 557861.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED
Private cash buyer
Instant cash settlement.
Any age. any condition.
Call Market Drayton.
01630 652993.

FORD ESCORT 1.6 Ghia, 1994, genuine 24,000 miles, racing green, full MoT, £1000. 01922 646437. 07932 084639.

MG MIDGET OR MGB ROADSTER Wanted, any condition considered. Telephone 01902 887520 / 07733 202471.

commercial vehicles

LANDROVER DEFENDER, 110 TD5, 2004, ex PLC, £5,950. 07768 841443.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
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Hales are victors in must-win game

Old Halesonians 31 Scunthorpe 10

THIS was a must win game for Hales.

Both sides immediately tested each others defences.

The visitors took the initiative through a strong rolling maul, which eventually led to the first points of the day with a well-taken drop goal after 15 minutes.

Wing Warren Oliver offloaded the ball to the ever present Tom Jordan to score, converted by Chris Hooper.

Then came the unexpected try of the game. Hales won a line out on half way and Mark Evans co-ordinated a driving maul,

Loosehead prop, Padian received the ball and ran at the opposition selling an outrageous dummy.

On the opposition 22 he sold another dummy to the full back for a classic try converted by Hooper. Despite the lead, Scunthorpe were still in this game. On 47 minutes centre Andy Robinson. He split the defence to score.

From a scrum Bown rounded the inside centre for a try which he converted for a 26-3 lead. Jordan then went over for his second try of the game.

Scunthorpe scored a consolation try.

Stour players enjoy whitewash on boards

Chess

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club's Wolverhampton Division 2 team hosted Wolverhampton, who are struggling.

The Wolves captain said a default on board 6, 1-0 up in what appeared on paper to be one of our easier matches became even more so when Stour exchanged teams as Wolverhampton were missing some players.

The early moves all looked very good for SCC.

Then Steve Jukes on board one went wrong allowing his opponent to win the exchange.

First to finish was Eric Horwill who was a large amount of material ahead before his opponent reluctantly resigned. Dave Scriven had a massive attack which his opponent tried to blunt by exchanging queens but this resulted in Dave winning a pawn and improving his position at which point his opponent resigned.

This was followed by two more wins for John Foxall and Julie Wilson.

Somehow Steve Jukes managed to get back into his game and won the endgame. This made it a complete whitewash 6-0 to Stourbridge. On the same night the Dudley Division 3 team hosted Walsall Kipping. The three Stourbridge youngsters all lost relatively quickly. On board one, Chris Williamson made more of a game of it, but he too lost.

Last Wednesday SCC's Birmingham Division 1 team travelled to Boldmere who were in serious danger of relegation and SCC were close to the relegation zone so a loss to Boldmere would make the remainder of the season very nervous.

Both teams were missing their top players which made SCC slight favourites. Stourbridge won in style through Jeremy Fallowfield, Greg Dyett and Eric Horwill and draws for Nick Arkell, Nic Fallowfield and Ron Evans.

SCC are now five points ahead of the two teams in the relegation zone, so not yet mathematically safe but looking far better.

Whilst SCC's top team played at Boldmere the Wolverhampton Division 3 team hosted Lichfield. Wins for Jet Ajimal and Sam Bradley with draws for Tony Shaw, Colin Woodall and Martin Wood gave us a 3.5 – 1.5 win.

This win pushed SCC into the promotion places, but Walsall Kipping are only one point behind with three matches in hand.

Slater battles a cold at Aldersley

DESPITE suffering from a cold all week Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers (Dash) athlete Lee Slater still managed a great second place in the fourth and final race in Division 2 of the Birmingham League cross country at Aldersley in Wolverhampton.

Lee held on to eventual winner Ros Jones of W& B for more than half of the race before the week's lack of training took its toll and he had to settle for the runner-up spot.

But with his second, Lee battled through and secured the overall individual winner for both the best of three races and all four races.

Dash finished ninth on the day and dropped to seventh overall from the 18 teams, but the club still gave a good team performance as Dave Nation had another solid run for 30th as Ian Mansell who had already won a park run in the morning finished 54th.

Junior Alex Ashfield in his first senior cross country ran well for 62nd as Scott Palmer was 107th and Jordan Smith 146th to give the club a points score of 401pts.

Joe Bolton, who came in at177th place, completed the meeting for Dash runners.

Glassboys winning streak gets broken

Frickley Athletic1 Stourbridge 0

STOURBRIDGE were left to rue what might have been at Frickley Athletic.

The Glassboys headed to West Yorkshire targeting a third straight win in the Evo-Stik Premier but were punished for not making the most of their chances. They also failed to take advantage of playing against 10 men for much of the final third of the match.

Football

Stourbridge's best chance of the first half arrived in the 26th minute when Kayleden Brown's pass put Brian Smikle clear but his shot was too close to Athletic keeper Sam Leigh and he managed to keep it out of the net.

Frickley capitalised six minutes later when Stour defender Leon Miles' clumsy challenge on Luke Hinsley resulted in a spot-kick that was calmly converted by Matt Bloor. This would prove to be the only score of the game and ended the Glassboys unbeaten run

A header by John Cyrus just cleared the Stourbridge bar as the Blues pushed forward looking for a second goal and make sure the game was in the bag.

And Dean Coleman's sharp save prevented Athletic from doubling their lead through a Reece Thompson lob soon after the start of the second half action.

In the 63rd minute, Frickley's Matt Young saw red for a last-ditch challenge on Luke Benbow as the Glassboys striker bore down on goal, reducing the home team to 10 men.

Stour threw on Dayle Kenny and Josh Morgan-Parker to try to seize the initiative against their depleted opponents but they couldn't take advantage of having that extra man.

They laid siege to the hosts' goal with Leon Broadhurst's fierce shot thwarted by Leigh before Tyrone Williams' saw his effort scrambled off the line by Macauley Parkinson to add to the Glassboys frustration.

Frickley defended their goal stoutly for the remaining minutes to claim all three points.

The Glassboys remain in 11th place in the league table for now as they are looking to chase a top-half finish.

Frickley Athletic: Leigh, Stannard (Parkinson 45), Jeffs, Young, Cyrus, Broadhead, Hornsey, Bloor, Thompson, Hinsley, Riley (Johnson 87).

Subs not used: Payne, Rose, Hood.

Stourbridge: Coleman, Smikle, Miles, Williams, Richards, Brown, Connolly (Morgan-Parker 67), Broadhurst, Benbow, Fitzpatrick (Kenny 72), Knight.

Subs not used: Quaynor, Kalenda, Tye.

Fightback by DK squad comes too late

DK forwards ready to give support during the clash with Sutton Coldfield which they lost

Dudley Kingswinford 14 Sutton 43

DK have been suffering yet another miserable season.

However, considering that they were 38-0 down an hour into the game they did dig their heels in and show there is still fight there. The last quarter of this game showed the true DK "Dog" or team spirit.

If you take it as a separate statistic then DK actually won this quarter of the game 14-5, and it presented a truer picture of the way the team would like to be playing consistently.

It started with a period of ball retention by DK, with the ball being moved through the phases and territorial pressure being applied to Sutton, and their defence being stretched as the home side sought to get back into the game .

This led to a penalty being conceded, which was taken quickly and the play moved to the 22 in front of the Sutton posts. This was when scrum half Keiran Pinches spotted a gap in the Sutton defence to go through the hole before the Sutton defenders could react . Jamie Hearn added the extras.

Then, on 73 minutes the excellent Sutton Full back Nathan Burchell replied with another good try, the conversion was missed. Gavin Forbes the scored .

Jamie Hearn converted.

Duffy's shot enough for the victory

AFC Tipton 0 FC Stafford 1

THOMAS Duffy was the goal hero as FC Stafford claimed a 1-0 away win at AFC Tipton in West Midlands Division Two.

He forced the ball home early in the second half when Andy Willacy's drive flew across goal.

In a hard-fought game of few chances, Stafford had a second-half penalty claim rejected after Willacy tumbled in the box as he chased Charlie Marshall's through ball.

Stafford were without several key personnelJake Robinson and Daniel Clarke were both drafted in for rare starts while Tom Waldron moved out of the back to join Robinson and Matt Rhodes as the midfield trio.

Varnish is picked for Team GB

JESS VARNISH and Andy Tennant have both been included in the Great Britain team for the Track World Championships later this month.

Halesowen Cycling Club's Varnish leads the women's sprint squad, which also features former heptathlete Katy Marchant.

Tennant, from Wolverhampton, is in a men's endurance team that includes Steven Burke and will contest the team pursuit on the opening day of the February 18 to 22 competition.

Olympic champion Burke has recovered from a broken collarbone to make the tournament in Paris.

Champion Joanna Rowsell leads the women's endurance group.

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Tividale trample all over Tulips

Spalding Utd 0 Tividale 2

TIVIDALE continued with their impressive away form with a disciplined and well deserved victory at high-flying Spalding United.

The Tulips were on a 15-game undefeated run in Evo-Stik Division One South stretching back four months and started the game in impressive form when Adam Jackson sent a 25-yard drive high and wide after seven minutes.

Tividale went ahead on 24 minutes when a Foster free-kick was headed down by Richard Huckfield and Jordan Archer turned and volleyed home past Tulips keeper Michael Duggan.

The Lincolnshire outfit went in search of an equaliser and Thurlbourne forced Tividale keeper Charlie Price into a save from 12 yards after the visitors failed to clear their lines.

On 66 minutes Spalding's chance of getting back into the game went when Adam Jackson was given a straight red card for a wild challenge on Tividale right-back Chris Field.

On 76 minutes another Thurlbourne free-kick was deflected wide before Tividale sealed the points as Duggan dropped a Tividale corner and Huckfield forced the ball over the goal line.

Tividale almost scored a third in stoppage time.

Whitehouse in Team rescue

St Martin's 3
Team Dudley 3

STEVE Whitehouse volleyed an 89th-minute equaliser to give Team Dudley a share of the points against St Martins.

The promotion-chasing visitors were 2-0 up after 21 minutes of the West Midlands Division One match, thanks to headed goals by Daniel Graham and Shawn Melusi.

Mitch Blackham gave Dudley a chance with another headed goal from James Hill's free-kick a minuted before the interval, and six minutes after the break Ryan Spittle tapped home to level the scores after Hill's shot from edge of box was saved.

Melusi got his second in a goalmouth scramble to restore Saints' lead in 64 minutes, but Whitehouse came to the rescue to make the final score 3-3.

Single point sends DK runners down

Running

IT was a disappointing weekend for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as the final fixture of the Birmingham Cross Country League saw them drop down to the Third Division.

Prior to the race the league table looked decidedly healthy with the blue hoops placed 13th of the 18 teams in the Second Division and with a near 200 point cushion between them and the final relegation place, things looked optimistic.

With Nuneaton Harriers and Centurion RC looking cast adrift the final relegation place was a straight dogfight between Severn AC, Tamworth, Newcastle Staffs, DK and Trentham.

It appeared all that was needed was for DK to perform as they had done in the previous three fixtures and keep their fingers crossed that the other clubs wouldn't pull a performance out of the bag.

Although there were a handful of absentees, the hoops were still able to field what appeared to be a strong squad. Ben Foster led the club home in 14th place finishing in 32.30, Rob Sannwald was 79th in 35.46, Kevin Duckworth 80th in 35.47, James Wright was 117th in 37.10, Darran Bishop came 131st in 37.53 and Dave Norman finished in 38.36 in 148th place to give the A team a total of 569 and 14th place .

Of the remaining club members Mark Gatenby was 160th, Brian Preston 165th, Daren Thompson 169th, Gary Bonner 172nd, Mark Gallimore 176th, Simon Hughes 179th, Steve Wood 191st, Graham Wildgoose 194th, Paul Silk 200th, John Andrews 221st and Rory Campbell 228th. Despite their best efforts this was not enough to secure Second Division status as Severn AC, Tamworth, Newcastle Staffs and Trentham all scored fewer points than DK on the day, and where fewer is better this was enough to put them in peril.

As the dust settled the final league table showed DK relegated by a single point. The women's race was far less dramatic with DK finishing 33rd of the 37 teams competing on the day and 20th of 30 in the Second Division of the Midlands League with Carol Fisher finishing in 166 in 30.47, Lynn Sprague in 184th in 31.56 and Marie Latreche in 189th in 32.16.

STOUR WORKS HARD FOR WIN

Stourbridge 23 Broadstreet 17

STOURBRIDGE'S workmanlike performance secured victory over dogged Coventry.

Their opponents did manage to largely stifle Stour's attacking game but an opportunist try by flanker Bobbie Lawrenson gave Stour a 17 point lead just after halftime.

However, this was whittled away by a youthful Broadstreet side .

The win pushes Stour further from but not yet completely clear of relegation danger at the bottom of National 2 North.

Stour advanced downfield and scrum half Toby Handley snuck over and Caolan-Ryan converted, the first of his five successful shots at goal.

Turnover

A big drive by the Stour pack secured a turnover, they attacked and secured a penalty for side entry, this time Ryan kicking for goal.

Stour tried to run the restart from deep but were turned over in contact then shipped a penalty for offside, outside half Ben Palmer knocking over the kick at goal.

Stour attacked but failed to make any ground as passes went loose.A scrum near the Broadstreet 22 produced another penalty as their loose head went to ground, Ryan knocking over his second.

The chase of Ryan's second half kick-off was rewarded when Lawrenson managed to charge down Palmer's clearance deep in the 22. The ball rebounded deep into the goal but he was quick enough to gather it and score before it could go dead.

A rash of handling errors allowed Broadstreet to advance into Stour territory, they were rewarded when a penalty for offside was converted by Palmer.

Handley's chip nearly resulted in a score for the chasing Ciaran Moore, the visitors' cover conceding a five metre scrum, but a big shove on their tighthead side secured a penalty at the scrum and they cleared.

Stour's discipline deserted them, a rash of penalty awards found them defending a lineout deep in their 22 but they held up a maul and then forced a scrum penalty.

Harper was held up in in-goal to concede a five metre attacking scrum the visitors forced their way over through scrum half Nick Thatcher.

Ryan landed a long-range penalty to open up a two-score lead, Broadstreet then were rewarded with a penalty.

With an easy bonus point on offer Palmer landed another kick at goal.

Stourbridge's Robbie Hurrell secures lineout ball for his side against Broadstreet during the home clash

Game is edged by Lions

Wolves 5 Lions 7

THE Lions won again on the road at Wolves in a close game.

They controlled most of the game apart from isolated patches of pressure from the home side.

As it was, despite pressure from the Lions in the first 10 minutes, going close on several occasions, it was Wolves that scored first, a fine try from their outstanding player, the full back, who chipped and chased and won the race to the ball after 10 minutes.

An easy conversion was missed and the rest of the half belonged to the dominant Lions.

Josh Trinham touched down twice in 15 mins with the referee giving a forward pass on both occasions, the second in particular drawing howls of protest from Lions supporters.

Eventually, after 30 mins, a fine move orchestrated by Robinson ended with a fine try down the Lions left, again by Josh Trinham, who is now well into double figures for tries.

A great conversion from near the touchline by Ben Trinham provided the final score of the game

No guarantees over Cleverley

VILLA midfielder Tom Cleverley is not guaranteed a starting role, says boss Paul Lambert.

Cleverley, on loan from Man Utd, was jeered by some home support when he was substituted in Saturday's 2-1 loss to Chelsea.

Lambert said: "You try and pick a team you think will win a game."

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